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Meretz blasts plan for new town over Green Line

SARAH HONG

MERETZ yesterday accused Labor of striking a deal with the haredi parties...

The deal would offer new housing for the growing haredi population...

Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer is awaiting speedy cabinet approval for a new city called Matityahu...

According to Ben-Eliezer this "is not in any way a political deal. There is a severe housing shortage in the haredi community...

Abstention in no-confidence votes at this stage, he said, "is meaningless, because the elections might be advanced in any case..."

Ben-Eliezer wants the government to approve his plans within the next 10 days.

Meretz Knesset faction chairman Ran Cohen said yesterday that the party is "fed up with Labor's insistence on dealing behind our back..."

Labor sources stressed, however, that what is involved is not construction deep inside Judea and Samaria...



Prime Minister Shimon Peres and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl meet the press before a Munich ceremony yesterday...

Abu Zayyad: Informal ministerial talks on Jerusalem under way

BILL HUTMAN

SECRET "informal talks" on Jerusalem between Israeli and Palestinian ministers have been conducted here and abroad over the past several months...

"The meetings are on the ministerial level, with the aim of exploring each side's position on Jerusalem," Abu Zayyad said.

Abu Zayyad described the talks as "informal," but said the purpose (Continued on Page 20)

Saddam reportedly has cancer

DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON

IRAQI President Saddam Hussein is suffering from lymphatic cancer, according to Middle East sources...

The cancer is described as a form of Hodgkin's Disease, which is not necessarily fatal if detected at a relatively early stage.

Among the symptoms are intermittent low-grade fever, itching of the skin and enlargement of the lymph nodes.

Saddam is said to be receiving radiation therapy and steroids, which have left him slightly bloated.

US downplays chance for Israel-Syria breakthrough

Iran threatens Assad if he makes peace

DOUGLAS DAVIS and news agencies

THE US yesterday played down chances of a quick breakthrough in the Israeli-Syrian peace talks...

Secretary of State Warren Christopher said that though the talks had "gotten off to a good start" Wednesday...

Meanwhile, Iran's media have launched a public attack on Syria over the peace talks...

The Teheran daily Abrar, which reflects the views of Iranian spiritual leader Ali Akbar Khamenei, said...

While the initiative did not refer directly to Syrian President Hafez Assad, it contained an oblique warning...

The bomb explosion in Riyadh [in November] showed what dependence on foreigners brings. If the Damascus statesmen ignore it, they will suffer the same fate as assassinated Egyptian president Anwar Sadat.

It is thought that Teheran's outburst is related to a Syrian crackdown on Hizbullah last

month, when Damascus demanded a halt to its operations in the south Lebanon security zone...

In his statement to reporters, Christopher said: "The pattern here is for there to be very wide-ranging discussions and some tentative approaches made..."

There has been no sign of a change of position by either side. Instead, there are signs that Foreign Minister Ehud Barak angered Syria by saying that Israel would only reveal the extent of a possible Golan pull-back when Syria commits itself to full ties.

This has long been the Israeli position, but Prime Minister Shimon Peres has softened it in public since taking over after the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin.

In a commentary that contrasted with recent upbeat statements in Damascus, the official Syrian daily Al-Baath accused Barak of "blackmailing Syria on something which can never be a subject for that - land."

The paper also accused Israel of obstructing the talks by "demanding the impossible."

"Israeli officials are back to putting forth issues and proposals which are very far from the core of peace," Al-Baath said.

The paper did not spell out the Israeli demands, nor the "serious and practical combinations" it said Damascus had proposed to push the peace process forward.

The paper said a decisive step could be taken at Maryland if Israel commits itself to full withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

On the issue of water, Israel also staked out a tough position. "Any future border between Israel and Syria must take into account full Israeli control of all of the sources of fresh water," Deputy Defense Minister Ori Orr said yesterday.

He also said he believed there is no reason to link the date of the elections to the negotiations with Syria.

Meanwhile, Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu declared that he would not give up the Golan or Israel's non-conventional weapons capability in return for a peace agreement that would include Iran, Iraq, and Libya.

Netanyahu, speaking to Rafael employees at the armaments development center in the town of Acro, said even the most fantastic peace agreement could not guarantee Israel's security.

David Rudge contributed to this report.

Ramon: If we don't respect religious status quo we'll get Netanyahu as PM

HAIM SHAPIRO

INTERIOR Minister Haim Ramon said he is committed to the status quo on religious issues, and will not recognize non-Orthodox conversions conducted in Israel...

Ramon, who spoke this week to a group of 50 rabbis from the US on a mission sponsored by ARZA, the Reform Movement's Zionist organization...

"They wanted to hear what, to my sorrow, other people say to them without any basis," Ramon said. "I tell them the truth without apology, so that they will know who I am and what I am."

Ramon insisted that the High Court of Justice decision last month regarding Eliane Goldstein - a non-Jew from Brazil converted to Judaism in a Reform ceremony in Israel - had not given the Interior Minister the

authority to register Goldstein as Jewish. Rather, he said, it had given the Knesset six months in which to act on this issue...

Those who insisted that he register Goldstein as Jewish, Ramon said, were saying that he should do exactly what they accused the haredi interior ministers of doing - using the bureaucracy to establish policy - except that they wanted him to act in line with their views.

"That's very dangerous," Ramon said. "That will make it impossible to demand of a religious interior minister that he should act in accordance with the law when he is in power."

Rabbi Uri Regev, director of the Reform movement's Religious Action Center (RAC) in Jerusalem, said that Ramon had been misinformed about the High Court decision. That deci-

sion, Regev maintains, did not set a time limit, and had only ruled that the British Mandatory ordinance, making the Chief Rabbinate the sole arbiter on Jewish conversions in Israel, was not valid in relation to either the Law of Return or the Population Registry.

Regev said that the RAC had given the ministry until the end of December to register Goldstein as Jewish, before again resorting to - using the bureaucracy to establish policy - except that they wanted him to act in line with their views.

Meanwhile, Ramon said that although the government did not want to pass any religious legislation, it would if it was forced to do so, just as it did when it passed a law making the import of non-kosher meat illegal after the High Court had struck down a regulation to this effect.

Such religious legislation did not reflect his point of view, Ramon said. (Continued on Page 20)

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Table with 3 columns: SHABBAT, BEGINS, ENDS. Rows for Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Beerahabs, Eilat.

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Vote tampering leads to call for revote in Jerusalem, Hebron

PALESTINIAN monitors called yesterday for another legislative council vote in Jerusalem and Hebron, saying that there were too many doubts about fairness in Jerusalem, and firm evidence of vote tampering in Hebron.

The Palestinian Domestic Monitoring Committee said at a news conference that the low turnout in Jerusalem and Hebron - 50% and 35% respectively - was because of Israeli police and military presence, and was com-

pounded in Hebron by clear irregularities in the balloting.

The PDMC said there was clear evidence in one ballot box in Hebron of a discrepancy between the unofficial count conducted by candidates' observers and the PDMC, and with the official count of the Central Elections Commission.

"In polling station No. 57 in Hebron, there was a difference of 60 to 70 votes between our number and the number which the

CEC had," said Zakaria Odeh, of the PDMC. Odeh said it did not look like an innocent computing error. "There is a political direction to it," he said.

An official investigation seems unlikely, however. CEC official Gabi Baramki said he understood there were some violations, but "even if there were violations they were not immense."

There were 200 boxes in Hebron, Odeh said, of which 49 went astray for up to 24 hours. If

the error in one box was multiplied 50-fold, he said, that could seriously affect the results.

Peace Watch, an Israeli monitoring committee that has heard similar complaints, joined the PDMC in calling for the CEC to investigate.

But the CEC itself may not be blameless. The PDMC charged that a CEC official filled out the ballot of a blind man according to

his own voting preference.

In the case of disabled and illiterates, there were supposed to be two witnesses, one of the voter's choice and one election official.

Several Palestinian election officials complained to *The Jerusalem Post* that international observers were not effective because they were stationed only in towns and not in the villages.

Carl Lidboom, head of the European Union observers, said this was not true. "We had people

everywhere, but could not be everywhere all the time."

In many villages the Palestinian Police interfered in the voting, Odeh said, and added that a PDMC spot survey showed that many of the 30,000 policemen may not have voted at all, because they were on duty outside their areas.

In Jerusalem, Fatah-FIDA candidate Zahira Kamal, who lost by 104 votes, demanded a revote because she said the mis-

sive Israeli police presence kept voter turnout low.

"Leaflets distributed by the Likud telling people they may lose social security rights [if they vote] did not help," Odeh said.

In Ramallah, three candidates complained. Palestinian People's Party candidate Mustafa Barghouti and independents Buscina Dokmat and Nadim Zarou said they believed that a change occurred in the counting after they appeared to be winning.

Intelligence chief PA not working against terror

HERB KEINON

THE Palestinian Authority is not working against the terror infrastructure in the territories, but is keeping it as a bargaining chip with the Israelis, OC Intelligence Maj.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon reportedly told the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza yesterday.

Ya'alon was speaking at a two-day meeting in Ariel organized by the council to discuss the future of settlements in light of the current situation, and to organize for the upcoming elections.

According to Yechiel Leiter, a spokesman for the council, Ya'alon said that Arafat has improved his ability to fight terror, because it is in his current interest that no attacks be carried out.

"Arafat has made a tactical, not strategic, change," Leiter said after hearing Ya'alon's presentation. "His strategy remains the destruction of Israel."

Regarding Syria, Leiter quoted Ya'alon as saying that the Syrians do not have the capacity today to

go to war with Israel, even if they do not get the Golan Heights.

In addition to Ya'alon, opposition representatives Ariel Sharon from the Likud, Ze'evuon Hammer from the NRP, Rehavam Ze'evi from Moledet and Doron Shmueli of Tsomet as well as heads of the Golan Settlements Committee met yesterday with the settlement leaders. Likud head Binyamin Netanyahu could not attend the meeting, but sent Sharon in his stead.

The Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza ended its two-day meeting in Ariel yesterday with a resolution calling upon the "national camp" parties to meet and consider running together as one faction.

The council also called upon the public and the right-wing political parties to rally around the candidacy of Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu, and said that it will enlist its resources to further Netanyahu's candidacy.

Machpela Cave closed to Jews today

THE Machpela Cave will be opened only to Moslems today because of the Ramadan holiday. This is one of the 10 days during the year when the Moslems have

access to the entire cave. There are also 10 days a year when the entire cave is open only to Jews.

Herb Keinon

Aloni boycotts Meretz executive

MICHAL YUDELMAN

COMMUNICATIONS and Science Minister Shulamit Aloni yesterday boycotted a meeting of Meretz's executive, which convened for the first time since her announcement last week that she would not contend for her party's leadership nor run on its Knesset list.

Meretz is looking for a way to keep Aloni active in the party and prevent her from running her own list in the next Knesset elections.

The executive was to discuss Aloni's political position, but refrained from making any decisions in her absence.

Aloni said at a meeting with political reporters that she decided not to attend the meeting because of the unpleasant atmosphere.

"I kept reading all kinds of anonymous statements of party 'seniors' saying unpleasant things about me, and the meetings became unpleasant," she said.

She stressed that she remains a member of Meretz, although she is being widely encouraged to form an independent list. She refused to elaborate on her plans, however, saying only: "You can be sure I won't be sitting at home doing needlepoint. My voice will be heard before the elections."



Communications and Science Minister Shulamit Aloni addresses a forum on Palestinian refugees yesterday, sponsored by the 'Palestine-Israel Journal.' Aloni, who announced last week that she would not be seeking a spot on the Meretz Knesset list, boycotted yesterday's meeting of the party's executive, complaining that backbiting by party colleagues made such meetings 'unpleasant.'

Aloni said, however, that she would address the Citizens Rights Movement council on Sunday, saying that "these are the people I have to answer to and they must know what I think." The CRM is one of the component parties of Meretz.

Aloni blasted a bill submitted by MK Ze'evuon Hammer (National Religious Party) that would require a special majority to make changes in religious legislation, which passed a preliminary reading earlier this week. She said the bill "will anchor in

legislation, discrimination on the basis of origin, religion, and sex. Every amendment and by-law will be subject to the religious coercion prevalent today.

"If this bill passes, we can say good-bye to our collective credo and all the rights in the Declaration of Independence, and turn into a halachic, semi-Khomeinistic state."

Aloni also expressed fury at Meretz's and the political leadership's acceptance of the educational system that produces *Hafsa* Amir.

Amir is no "wild weed," she said, "but the ultimate product of a certain education. At the end of elementary school, high school, and in the army, our youth receive a Bible. In 1990, the Bible already included a map of Greater Israel and God's order to Joshua to conquer the country.

"When did our youth ever get the Declaration of Independence as our collective credo?"

Aloni lambasted Meretz's leaders, who she said had dismissed her with contempt when she warned of the dangers of this kind

of education, noting that Amir himself said that he would kill babies and children in the conquest of the country.

Earlier this week, transcripts of Amir's interrogation by the General Security Service were brought to court and reported in the Hebrew press. Amir was quoted as saying "once something is a mitzva, there is no question of morality. If I were conquering the country, I'd have to kill babies and children as it says in the Book of Joshua. I'd do it without any moral problem."

Winning cards and numbers

In last night's Payis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 835724 won NIS 1,000,000.

The holder of ticket number 411908 won a car.

Tickets numbered 630070, 416803, 152933, 733172, 253459, 709359, 371767 and 893200 won NIS 5,000. Those tickets ending in 49085, 31164, 59004, 71656, 93171, 05518, 39423, 91871, 07813, 34829, 54952, 59143,

Rishon bank robbers elude dozens of police

TWO armed robbers stole NIS 40,000 from a Discount Bank branch in Rishon LeZion yesterday afternoon. They escaped on a motorcycle, eluding dozens of policemen.

Police patrols that were conducting an anti-terror drill not far from the bank received word of the robbery, abandoned the exercise, and began to search for the motorcycle.

Some 70 policemen in dozens of squad cars participated.

As of last night, however, there had been no arrests.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ouman protest outside Cial Building
About 100 workers from the Ouman Knitting Mills in Ofakim demonstrated yesterday outside the Cial Building in Tel Aviv. Cial owns Polgat, which owns Ouman.

The workers were joined by Ofakim Labor Council head Yossi Marciano, Meretz MKs Ran Cohen, Anat Maor, and Benny Temkin, and Na'amat head Ofra Friedman.

Alleged forger remanded
Binyamin Kaufelmacher, 45, of Jerusalem, was remanded yesterday for eight days by Jerusalem Magistrate's Court on suspicion of selling forged IDF authorizations to yeshiva students. Police said Kaufelmacher sold forged authorizations for leaving the country for \$150, and forged authorizations for obtaining a civilian driver's license for \$50.

Man given life for murder of security guard
Ahmed Masari, 35, of Lod, was sentenced yesterday to life imprisonment by Tel Aviv District Court for the murder of a security guard, Amos Hajaj, of Ramle.

Masari, who was friendly with Hajaj, shot him to death near Kafr Azza, after getting Hajaj to accompany him by telling him he needed help deciding on a stereo system. Masari apparently wanted to steal Hajaj's gun.

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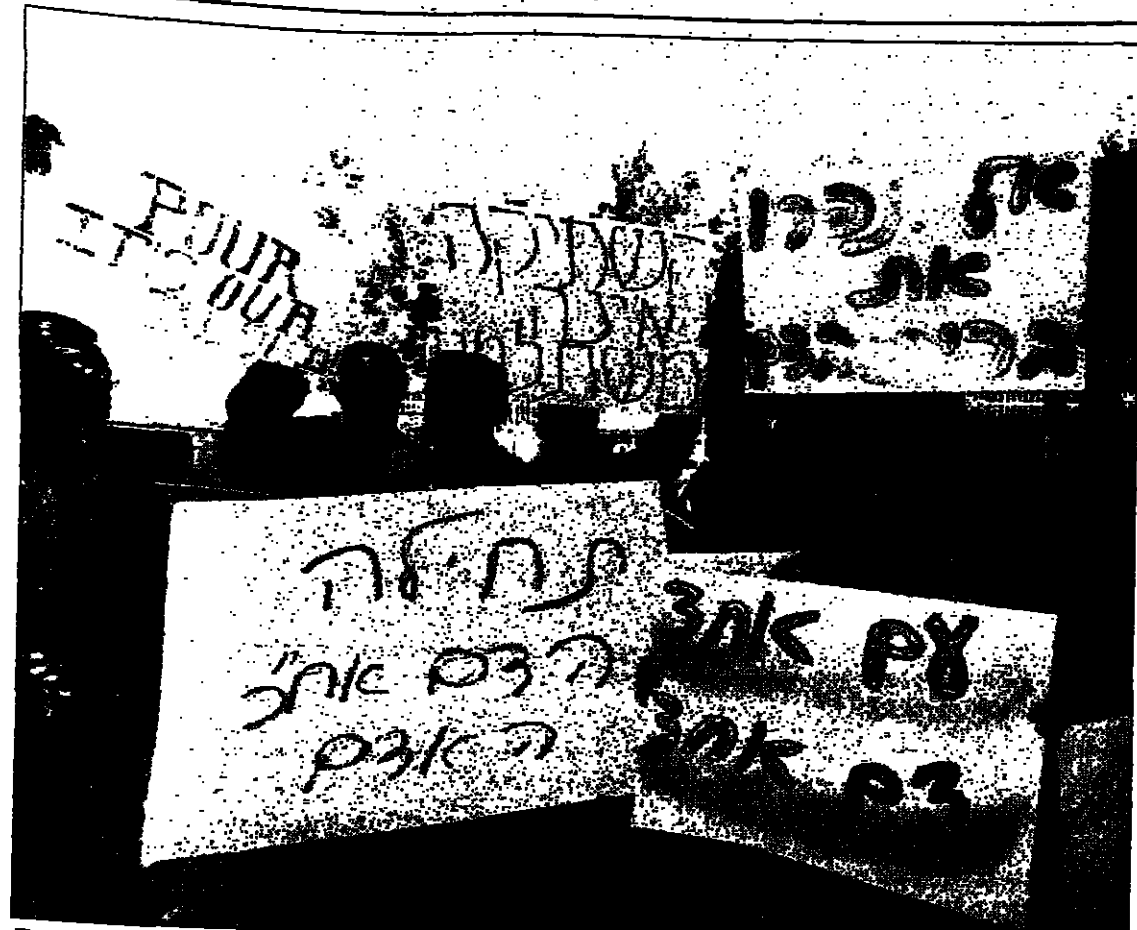
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מכירת מקומות



Ethiopian immigrants demonstrate outside the Health Ministry in Tel Aviv yesterday. (Ippa)

Health Ministry defends refusal to use blood of Ethiopian donors

FORMS filled out by blood donors will from now on contain a sentence noting that "use of the blood depends on medical considerations." This was decided yesterday by Health Minister Ephraim Sneh at the conclusion of a meeting of his advisory committee on immuno-hematology, which convened to discuss the uproar raised by a *Ma'ariv* probe.

60,000 immigrants, 520 have been found to be AIDS carriers, a rate 50 times that of other Israelis.

if they return to donate again six months later and are still HIV free, the initial donation may be used.

Sneh declared that the existing policy of not routinely using blood from high-risk groups, including homosexuals and drug addicts, was justified. There is a "window" of time, between several weeks and six months, during which antibodies to HIV are not distinguishable, but the person can still infect others.

These policies will be assessed in a year on the basis of the latest statistics. On the basis of professional advice he received, Sneh said it is impossible to heat blood from high-risk donors to kill viruses. International regulations bar this, he said. In addition, plasma that is heated loses its anti-coagulant properties.

entitled to a year's blood insurance, Sneh said.

Demonstrations against MDA's "racist" policy were held yesterday by former Ethiopian olim and by Meretz youths at the Health Ministry and MDA's central blood bank.

However, MDA blood services director Dr. Amnon Ben-David, a member of the advisory committee, said this body provided full backing for the policy of not using the blood of high-risk groups.

MDA had chosen not to tell high-risk groups that their blood was not likely to be used "so as not to embarrass them," he said.

'Ma'ariv' report will stigmatize Ethiopian immigrants

MA'ARIV investigative reporter Ronel Fisher is to be commended for discovering a few months ago that the Tuva dairy in Rehovot was adding an illegal silicone compound to its long-life milk.

But his "revelation" on Wednesday that most blood donations by Ethiopian Jewish immigrants are destroyed did a great disservice to this noble and long-suffering ethnic community. It was unfair to Magen David Adom as well.

The Ethiopian Jews who demonstrated yesterday against MDA and the Health Ministry on the grounds that they were "insulted" would have been wiser to hold a solemn protest at *Ma'ariv*. The newspaper forced officials to disclose what should have been kept quiet: that members of this community - who come from Africa where AIDS is endemic - are 50 times more likely to be HIV carriers than other Israelis. The medical establishment knew this;

so did immigration officials, health reporters and most of the immigrants themselves. Health officials consistently discouraged journalists from writing about this so as not to stamp the immigrants with a "mark of Cain." By obliging them, the journalists did not endanger public health, as the likelihood of sexual contact between non-Ethiopians and Ethiopians is minuscule. The only other mode of transmission is blood transfusion - and MDA's policy of destroying most of their blood (except rare types, which are later re-checked) rules this out as well.

Individual Ethiopian immigrants rarely go to an MDA branch to donate blood. The hundreds of donations from this community result from organized vis-

its by soldiers. Should MDA have singled out Ethiopian Jews from among the soldiers and told them to go home because they are at high risk for AIDS?

No - just as homosexuals and drug abusers who identify themselves as such aren't singled out and embarrassed.

In every case, high-risk donors are given a year's blood insurance for their goodwill, even if their blood is not used.

MDA's refusal to use the blood for transfusions is not racist but good public-health policy.

Newspapers can be expected to uncover information using sneaky tactics, but there are limits.

According to MDA blood services director Dr. Amnon Ben-David, Fisher told him he was

coming with a team (which, it turned out, included a former Ethiopian immigrant as a test case) for a story that would promote blood donations. They followed what was done to the black man's blood and published the news, complete with photographs of the rejected pint.

It is unfortunate that neither Health Minister Ephraim Sneh nor Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban had the courage - in an election year - to criticize the powerful newspaper for its "scoop."

Instead, they criticized MDA for "lying" to the immigrants.

Sneh "solved" that problem by instructing MDA to insert a sentence in donor forms declaring that acceptance of blood depended on medical requirements. In effect, this is only a nominal change. The upshot of the affair is the further stigmatizing of Ethiopian Jewish immigrants.

Haggai Amir wants GSS evidence declassified

HAGGAI Amir yesterday asked the Supreme Court to declassify the information against him gathered by the General Security Service, arguing that he cannot defend himself without seeing important evidence against him. Attorney Moshe Meroz, representing Amir, said he does not object if the GSS's sources of information and methods of operation remain classified. However, he said, it is essential that he know the contents of the information, because otherwise, there is no way for him to question its validity. "No security reason, even the

most weighty, is of more importance... than the conviction of an innocent man," Meroz wrote, quoting a 1984 court verdict. The information is particularly important, he said, because a significant component of Amir's defense will revolve around the role of GSS agent Avishai Raviv, the instructions he received, and the information he gave the service. Precisely because of the public interest in this trial, it is important that justice not only be done, but be seen to be done, Meroz added.

Meroz also argued that it is unfair for his client, who faces a lengthy prison term if convicted, to be deprived of this information, when GSS officials will be allowed to make use of it in their defense before the Shamgar Commission, where the stakes are much lower. Amir is being charged with conspiracy to kill prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, conspiracy to carry out terror attacks against Arabs, and illegally possessing and manufacturing arms. Amir allegedly made the dum-dum bullets used by his brother, Yigal, to kill Rabin.

Rafi Friedan withdraws petition to High Court

ACCUSED wiretapper Rafi Friedan yesterday withdrew a petition to the High Court of Justice asking that his indictment be canceled, after the justices made it clear that they considered the petition out of place. Friedan's petition was based on the fact that the state used his partner, Ya'acov Tsur, to secretly tape conversations between the two and Friedan's lawyer, Mordechai Katz. Attorney Avigdor Feldman, representing Friedan, argued that it was illegal for the state not to have informed Friedan that Tsur had turned state's evidence, and that the tapes violated the rule of lawyer-client confidentiality. The entire process, he said, had damaged Friedan's chances of a fair trial. In response, the state argued that Friedan's rights were not damaged by the procedure, because none of the evidence gathered in this way will be used against him. The tapes were

meant solely to obtain evidence against *Ma'ariv* publisher Ofer Nimrod, who allegedly commissioned the two to wiretap some 100 individuals and companies. Furthermore, the state said, lawyer-client confidentiality does not apply when a third person is in the room, even if that third person is a co-defendant in the case. However, Justices Shlomo Levin, Dalia Dorner, and Zvi Tal said there was no reason for them to rule on this argument, because it can still be raised before the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court. The lower court had rejected this argument initially on the grounds that it did not yet have enough facts to determine the justice of Feldman's claim, but said he could raise it again at the end of the trial. Furthermore, the justices said, they also lacked the necessary facts to rule on the argument, even if there was in theory reason for them to hear the case.

Youth Aliya transfer finalized - reform will save \$60 m.

ARRANGEMENTS for the transfer of Youth Aliya from the Jewish Agency to the Education Ministry were finalized yesterday. The transfer is part of the reform program that will save the hard-pressed agency some \$60 million. The reform, worked out with the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin shortly before the assassination, was approved in November by the agency's board of governors. Youth Aliya institutions will come under the aegis of the ministry's branch for rural education as of September 1, and most of the workers will then become ministry employees. However, they will continue to enjoy the same benefits they had before. The institutions will remain Jewish Agency property. Youth Aliya was founded in 1933 in an effort to save Jewish children, and some 350,000 pupils have passed through its institutions since then. Meanwhile, German Minister for Youth Affairs Claudia Nolte, 29, is due to arrive here next week as guest of Youth Aliya to study the possibility of establishing a similar residential educational network in her country.

UNITED UNDIVIDED JERUSALEM, ETERNAL CAPITAL OF ISRAEL

The leadership of "We Are All Yerushalmim" headed by Charles Weinberg, Maurice Wohl, David Fund, Zally Jaffe, George Weinstein, Morris S. Conelli, Alair Greenstein, Frances Winterstein, consists of professionals, academicians, businessmen including: Uzi Narkis, Dan Elazar, Asher Shapiro, Lou Bravman, Israel Corner, George Falk, Jim Gerrish, Stan Goodenough, Max Landau, Eli Reichman, Ernesto Rosenfeld, Leo Schachter, James Gordon, Shubert Spero, Sol Sharfman, Lou Simonsen, David Fuld, Izzy Schreiber, Aaron Schreiber, Leonard Kestenbaum, Emanuel Appilbaum, Ruby Davidman, Alexander Heiden, Moshe Kohn, Aaron Lawson, Ben Rabinowitz, Yaacov Rubin, Marvin Bienenfeld, Joseph Shore, Lou Schoen, Si Shwartz, Max Weil, Clarence H. Wagner, Jr. Moshe Scharf, Jan Willem Van der Hoeven, Shai Solomon.

JERUSALEM IS AT STAKE

ARE WE GRADUALLY LOSING CONTROL OF OUR DESTINY?

Arafat's threats are not merely rhetoric.

There are ominous signs that discussions on Jerusalem are about to begin.

We, an apolitical group, seek to build up the consensus that Jerusalem, united undivided, will remain forever the sovereign Capital of Israel.

We seek to mobilize all segments of the Jewish community, religious and secular, throughout the world, as well as our many Christian friends.

After 2,000 years of prayer, tears and hope, and in the sight of G-d and history, we, the generation of the Shoah and the generation of fulfillment, dare not be silent and dare not fail.

United, undivided Jerusalem must remain the sovereign, eternal capital of Israel.

In addition to Israelis, thousands have joined us in North America and Western Europe.

Every voice counts and time is running short.

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For each contribution of 18 shekels (or 18 dollars) you'll receive a beautiful lapel pin in the form of our logo.

Please have all members of your family sign and help our cause by contacting friends and neighbours.

PETITION

We, the undersigned, petition the government of Israel, not to divide the city of Jerusalem under any circumstances and that united-undivided Jerusalem shall remain the sovereign capital of Israel

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE

Enclosed, please find signed petition and contribution of Please send me pins.

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The election myth

THE elections for the presidency of the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian Council seem to have become part of contemporary mythology. Their results, widely described as the happy outcome of a democratic process, have been hailed by everyone who counts, from Prime Minister Shimon Peres to former president Jimmy Carter and President Bill Clinton.

But the Palestinian monitors add to these cases a fraud no other group has mentioned: in filling their ballots, illiterate voters were assisted by relatives or agents of candidates who, as the report puts it, did not "respect the wishes" of the voters they were helping.

These sentiments were echoed on Wednesday by Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, who told the Knesset that the government views the elections as "a great success for the Palestinian Authority, Yasser Arafat and the political process in general...The elections were in effect a referendum which approved the Oslo agreements, reinforcing Arafat's position and the democratic character of the autonomy in public opinion in Israel and the world."

Criticisms voiced by the European-based organization "Reporters Sans Frontieres" conveyed the atmosphere in which the elections were held. The Palestinian press and radio stations, said the organization, failed to provide running coverage of the election story because they feared the Palestinian Police. Unlike the European Union's official observers, who spent a few days (mostly in the cities, not the villages) ensuring that voters could cast their ballots unmolested, the organization's representatives understood that what happened in the polling areas was only a tiny part of the story.

But a preliminary report issued yesterday by the Palestinian Domestic Monitoring Committee (PDMC), an organization of Palestinian volunteers officially empowered to monitor the elections, casts doubt on the vote's validity. Like other observers, the PDMC enumerates irregularities, including cases of ballot boxes left unguarded, gone missing, or counted without representatives of the candidates or other monitors being present. These are confirmed also by the Israeli Peace Watch observers: "Reports of unsupervised ballot boxes and papers, and of incomplete or missing polling station protocols, are numerous and widespread."

Confirming these charges, Palestinian human rights activist Bassam Eid said the suppression of journalists and human rights activists by the PA is "like it is in Iraq and Syria."

Regrettably, both Israel and the international community seem far less interested in the democratic process than in ensuring that Arafat's power is bolstered. But none of the post-election celebrants seems to wonder what it will be like for Israel to abut a police state "like Iraq and Syria."

Unleashed brutality

ONE of the most disturbing aspects of the continuing Russian conflict with Chechnya is the way President Boris Yeltsin is allowing himself to drift towards appeasing the lowest common denominator of political power-seekers in Moscow. Council of Europe parliamentarians yesterday lashed out at Russia for its brutal policy of force against the Chechens as the council debated whether to grant Russia the membership it covets.

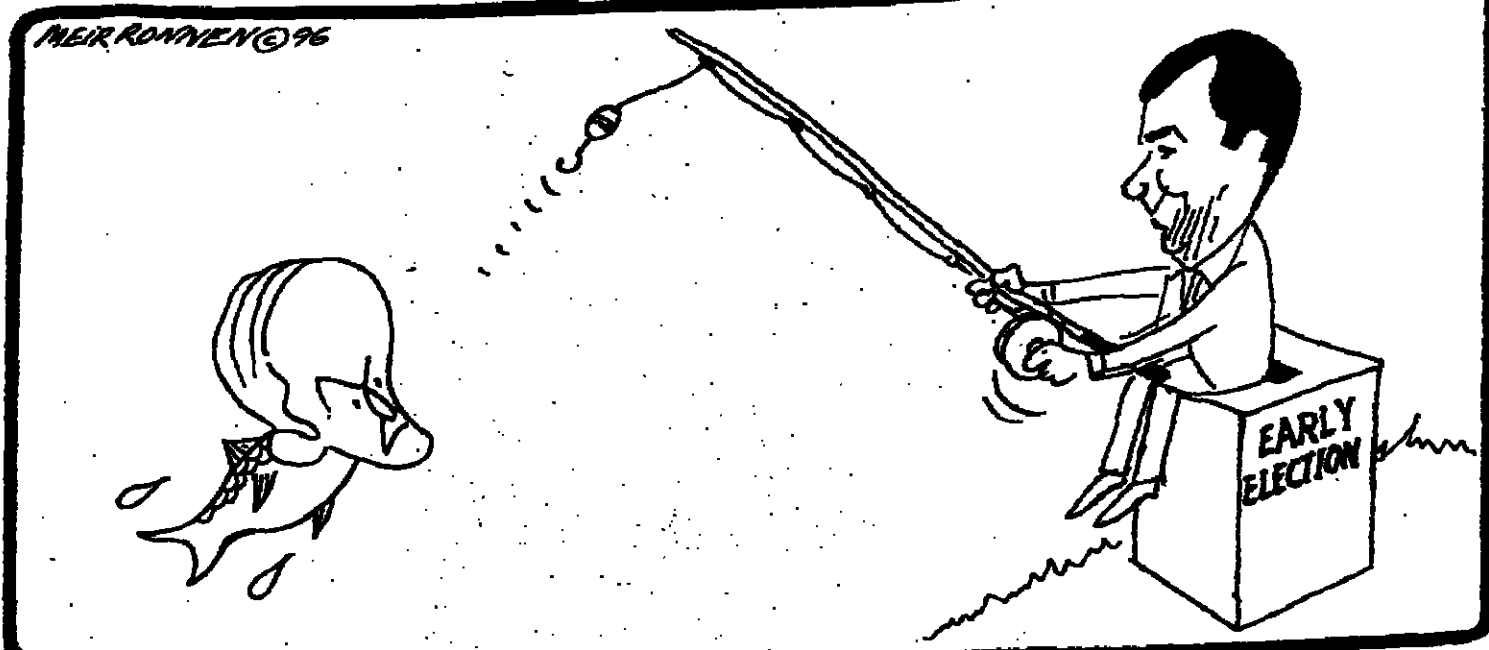
Those from the embattled liberal camp on the Russian political scene were equally sickened, not just by the inept and brutal military action, but by the Soviet-style political mendacity with which it was executed. Yeltsin and his officials were accused of deliberately avoiding a political settlement with the Chechen leadership, of breaking their word on earlier understandings with them, and of lying consistently about the aims and progress of the operation.

The terrorist act of the Chechen rebels in taking hostages cannot, of course, be condoned. But a democratic state is expected to avoid actions bordering on open warfare in dealing with such a crisis. The Kremlin opted for using the maximum of brutal brawn and the minimum of brains in confronting the Chechen rebels. When the loudest praise for the unprecedented military assault on the village of Pervomayskaya came from Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, it should have generated alarm rather than satisfaction in the presidential office.

The destruction of Pervomayskaya to solve a hostage crisis mirrored the destruction of Grozny to end the Chechen rebellion. Neither operation solved the immediate problem, nor the long-term one. The Chechens released 45 civilian hostages Wednesday but continue to hold around 60 Russian police and power workers. With gross insensitivity, Moscow has added to the disgust in Dagestan by accusing hostages of collaborating with the rebels - based on no more evidence than the hostages' reports that the captors treated them well.

The enormous difficulty of handling such a major terrorist action is understood in Russia and abroad. Such understanding, however, did not give Yeltsin license for unbridled brutality. The only ones encouraged by the outcome of the conflict have been the Chechens. Public opinion in Dagestan at first supported strong measures against the rebels, but the wanton destruction wreaked on their village and the total disregard for the hostages turned them instead into sympathizers with the Chechen

A year of destruction lies behind Russia's handling of the Chechen crisis and an uncertain future with more of the same lies before it. The Russian leadership has failed to learn from Soviet history that sheer brutality as a policy is a recipe only for escalating disasters. Yeltsin himself defied tanks in the 1991 abortive coup against Mikhail Gorbachev. He cannot be surprised if the Chechens have learned from that a lesson about standing up to oppression.



The joker in the house of cards

ARIEL SHARON

FOR some months now, the Syrian issue has been buffeting the Israeli public between hope and despair. From dawn to dusk, reports are followed by denials; "breakthroughs" alternate with disappointments; and ministers compete with each other to issue contradictory statements.

Are the additional countries already negotiating with Israel, and do their signatures only await Syria's? We know the answer: There is no such condition. And what will happen if, after we sign with Syria and make all the concessions, the Saudis, or Yemenis, or the Gulf countries, pose other conditions, such as Israeli concessions in Jerusalem, and/or consent to the return of almost a million Palestinian refugees...

Are the additional countries already negotiating with Israel, and do their signatures only await Syria's? We know the answer: There is no such condition.

FOLLOWING the latest Katyusha attacks, the government loudly proclaimed that this time, the Syrians were not responsible for Hizbullah's aggression. This implies that the wretched slogan - "only a political solution can prevent terrorism from Lebanon" - is less than valid.

The desire to produce 'good news' before elections has led to sloppiness in dealing with Syria

But it is this slogan that has been one of the main arguments for withdrawing from the Golan. How will a "political solution" with Syria affect organizations not dependent on Syria, such as the Palestinian terror groups in Lebanon, or the Amal Shi'ites, who have lately been intensifying their activities?

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Has this government linked the IDF's withdrawal from the Golan (which I strongly oppose) to reducing Syria's military power? In an evacuation from the Golan, Israel would lose exceptional strategic assets, vitally important to its defensive capability. Would it not be wise and just to demand from the Syrians, in return, that they reduce their of-

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ed that Syria eliminate the terrorist organizations there and in Lebanon as a condition for continuing negotiations?

Has it required that Syria return captured IAF navigator Ron Arad, and the other MIAs? Has it conditioned its willingness to withdraw on this?

Has this government considered the moral issue of granting legitimacy to the occupation of Lebanon by Syria? Is this not a flagrant example of "ruling over another people," or is such injunction only needed to persuade Jews to give up areas of their homeland essential for its existence as an independent state?

This government also preaches economic relations in the Middle East, including joint ventures on the Golan with Syria. Has it thought perhaps about a slow withdrawal, in stages, conditioned on the development of economic relations between Israel and Syria? Perhaps the slogan should be: "The depth of the withdrawal will equal the depth of economic ties?"

None of these questions has been asked by the government. Israel has made no demands of Syria. So overwhelming is its wish to retreat, to produce "good news" on the eve of elections in Israel and the US, that it lets sloppiness rule. Mismanaging the negotiations, endangering Israel's security, and gambling on the gamble of water-resources, it is constructing a vulnerable, perilous house of cards.

The writer, a Likud MK, is a former defense minister.

And we call ourselves a democracy

DAVID FORMAN

IN the America of the early 1960s, barely a week went by when I wasn't arrested for participating in some sort of protest rally. Whenever I went to join a demonstration against government policy, I assumed that I might spend a night or two in jail.

The problem arises when we believe that a democratically elected government has no right to respond. And here we can thank our government for this misguided attitude, for both the right and the left have been treated gingerly by the authorities when either side engaged in public demonstrations or acts of civil disobedience.

The problem arises when we believe that a democratically elected government has no right to respond. And here we can thank our government for this misguided attitude, for both the right and the left have been treated gingerly by the authorities when either side engaged in public demonstrations or acts of civil disobedience.

Never once did any of my comrades-in-arms claim that either the state or federal government was violating democracy by prosecuting those of us involved in disruptive acts of civil disobedience.

Even at the height of the civil rights protests in the South, with all the racial prejudice and violence that threatened civil rights workers, the legal right of the judicial system to arrest and prosecute us was not questioned.

Even at the height of the civil rights protests in the South, with all the racial prejudice and violence that threatened civil rights workers, the legal right of the judicial system to arrest and prosecute us was not questioned.

Contrary to this understanding of protest, those in Israel who commit an illegal act do not expect to face the consequences of their actions.

IT IS NOT too difficult to imagine what would happen in the US if, during rush hour, at 10 different points on the beltway leading into Washington, burning tires halted all traffic. The government would call in the National Guard, and protesters would be immediately arrested. During the Vietnam War, those who refused to serve in the military were either arrested or fled the country.

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Unfortunately, this is virtually endemic to Israeli society. Rapists receive minimal prison sentences; traffic offenders are back on the roads within hours of their violation; tax offenders go unpunished.

Such a sane policy has simply not been applied here. Only a handful of Yesh Gvul members served time in military prison. Most were either shifted to other units, or released. When right-wing protesters block major thoroughfares, holding the country virtually hostage to their demonstrative whims, only a scarce few get hustled into paddy wagons. There are never the mass arrests that defined the American protest movements.

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Moreover, political leaders found guilty of grave violations of trust still occupy seats of power. Long after the Agranat Commission issued its devastating inquiry into the Yom Kippur War, Moshe Dayan found himself serving as foreign minister in Menachem Begin's government. Despite the Kahan Commission's condemnation of Yitzhak Shabir and Ariel Sharon for their failed and even deceptive role in the Sabra and Shatila massacre, they are still figures to be reckoned with on the public scene.

Rabbis who clearly made inflammatory statements were never held accountable, nor were settlers chastised for their provocative behavior in the Arab market of Hebron. Moshe Levinger's four-month sentence for shooting an Arab shop-owner to death sent a clear message: "Do as you please, and expect to get away with it."

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We Israelis simply do not like having to take responsibility for our actions. I accept as an absolute democratic principle the right to protest. I accord the same right to those in Yesh Gvul who refused to serve in the territories as I accord to those who would refuse to dismantle settlements. It matters little to me if their motivation is based on moral conscience or religious belief. Both must take

authorities. In the US, civil rights workers and Vietnam protesters were often victims of brutality. Many times we were arrested because of overzealous police reaction rather than because of any legal violation of a particular state's law regarding public demonstrations.

We were also aware that there could be violent reactions by other members of society who disagreed with our political positions. We expected the authorities to deal with those people. Too often, that was not the case. In fact, in some instances, the authorities instigated the violence.

And, while frequently having to attack the authorities on all levels, nevertheless, we understood that the very act of civil disobedience would most likely result in an arrest. We knew we were not above the law. In Israel, this truth simply does not apply. Those who run the government and those who run the streets are equally to blame for an undemocratic situation.

The writer is spokesman for Rabbis for Human Rights.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UNMITIGATED DISASTER

Sir, - This Sunday the cabinet has on its agenda one of the most important issues in the life of Israel for the foreseeable future. It is an 11th-hour rethink about Road No. 6, the Trans-Israel Highway.

small country, it will rapidly increase suburbanization of the center of Israel. It will bring more people and more industry to the north, to Galilee, already affected by rapid industrialization. It will force even greater reliance on cars for transport, marginalizing the public transport services even further.

IDENTIFICATION TAGS

Sir, - Israel police are deservedly renowned for problem solving. At the January 16 City Hall demonstration, the police were in splendid winter raiment. A lead police official said the required identification tags were not visible because they did not have them for waterproof outer garments.

The irony is that it may not even achieve what it set out to do. Research has shown that more roads encourage more cars and more car use. All the cars brought into the center by the new road will pile up there, making it no faster to get into Tel Aviv than today. The road is planned at a time when European governments are realizing that they have made some grave miscalculations in assuming that the way to move people around the country and into the cities is by building more roads. Instead they are attempting to restore public transport and initiate new high-speed rail links.

Come now! Those coats could have embedded name-tag holders. Even simpler would be for police to wear luminous waterproof armbands with appropriate identification.

Dr. STEPHEN FULDER, Board Member, Citizens for the Environment in the Galilee, Mitzepe Abirin.

Apparently their desire is to avoid required identification and, counter to regulations and civil rights, they are succeeding.

JOSEPH LERNER, Director, Independent Media Review and Analysis, Jerusalem.

BROKEN LAND

Sir, - In an amazing volte-face, Rabbi Shlomo Riskin told a Jerusalem meeting that a broken land and a whole people are better than a broken people and a whole land (News in Brief, January 2).

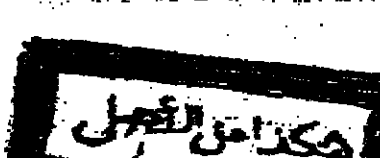
ENCOURAGING EMIGRATION

Sir, - I feel saddened every time I see the advertisement offering 55,000 "green cards," especially when it is displayed on your front page (December 29). Should we be encouraging our citizens to regard the right to live and work in the US as some kind of wonderful prize? I personally consider it a great privilege to live in Israel, even in

these difficult times, and I think the ad is sending a very young kind of message especially to young people who are already susceptible to the lure of trips to the Far East and exotic destinations after their army service.

Dr. STEPHEN FULDER, Board Member, Citizens for the Environment in the Galilee, Mitzepe Abirin.

Does Rabbi Riskin, whose opinion I have so far always valued very much, not understand that there can be no "whole" people in a broken land just as there can't be a "whole" spirit in a broken body? Has he forgotten how close we came to being a broken people in 2,000 landless years? R. WILLERS, Wembley Park, Middx.



Potent political card

WHEN Freih Abu Me-dein, the Palestinian Authority's Justice Minister, compared intifada claims to Holocaust reparations, Justice Minister David Liba'i said the entire Israeli public was shocked.

Indeed, the outrage seemed universal. But why hasn't Abu Me-dein or Yasser Arafat - or the US government - been reminded of Arab crimes against Jews?

It is relevant to recall that when the State of Israel was declared in 1948, there were approximately 870,000 Jews living in the Arab countries of Asia and North Africa. Today, only about 20,000 remain, largely in North Africa and Syria. They are remnants of illustrious and ancient communities whose history dates back more than 1,000 years before the rise of Islam.

Of those who left following excesses perpetrated against them in the wake of the rising tide of radical Arab nationalism (mistakenly referred to as "fundamentalism," a Christian concept foreign to Islam), over 200,000 left for the Americas or other Western countries. The lion's share - some 600,000 souls - came to Israel. Today, they and their progeny comprise close to half the population of the Jewish state (not including Jews from Iran).

Was it because this transfer of whole communities took place when the tragedy that befell European Jewry was still fresh that the suffering of Jews in Arab lands left its impress neither in the contemporary annals of the Jewish people nor on the consciousness of the free world?

When the *ma'abarot* (transit camps) were erected to provide temporary shelter, similar camps were set up in neighboring Arab countries for the Arab refugees who fled this country. This should have been recognized for what it was: an irreversible exchange of populations. The retention of the Arab refugees as political pawns should not have been tolerated by either Israel or the "enlightened" world.

MALKA H. SHULEWITZ

Only 27 years after the first waves of Jewish refugees from Arab countries landed on Israeli shores, an indigenous leadership developed to take up the cudgels of their cause, or so it seemed.

Twenty years ago, in the winter of 1975, the World Organization of Jews from Arab countries (WOJAC) held its founding convention in Paris. It was attended by 90 delegates born in eight Arab countries. The largest delegation hailed from Israel and was led by Mordechai Ben-Porat, then deputy Knesset speaker.

THE ARABS' discomfort soon became apparent, as it did on many subsequent occasions. The

Why hasn't Israel or the US reminded Arafat or Abu Me-dein about crimes committed against Jews in Arab countries?

Iraqi government placed large advertisements in major European newspapers inviting the Jews to return. On the first night of the convention a PLO press release, issued through Reuters in Beirut, was read from the platform. It called upon all Jews who had left Arab countries to "return and exercise their rights."

WOJAC's rejoinder termed the PLO message "a call to return to oppression, degradation and discrimination, as well as to the prisons of Syria and the gallows of Iraq."

A hair-raising film, *Dhimmi - To Be A Jew in an Arab Land*, documenting the pogroms, mock trials, concentration camps and other suffering that was again the fate of the Jewish people's most ancient diaspora under Moslem rule, had its preview. Like the

tribunal held at the 1986 conference in Washington, the film was given flesh and blood as witnesses from the different Arab countries came to the podium to give evidence. They spoke of mass pogroms, of rape, torture and murder. No Arab country was innocent.

But the media wasn't much moved, not in Paris, Washington or Tel Aviv. Nor did a single Arab or breast-beating human rights activist express sorrow at Moslem injustices to Jews. It had all happened so often before!

Where were the governments of Israel, Labor and Likud alike, that never made it an obligatory subject for Israel's diplomats and emissaries? Those of us who have lectured on it both here and abroad were always asked the same question: "Why haven't we been given these facts before?"

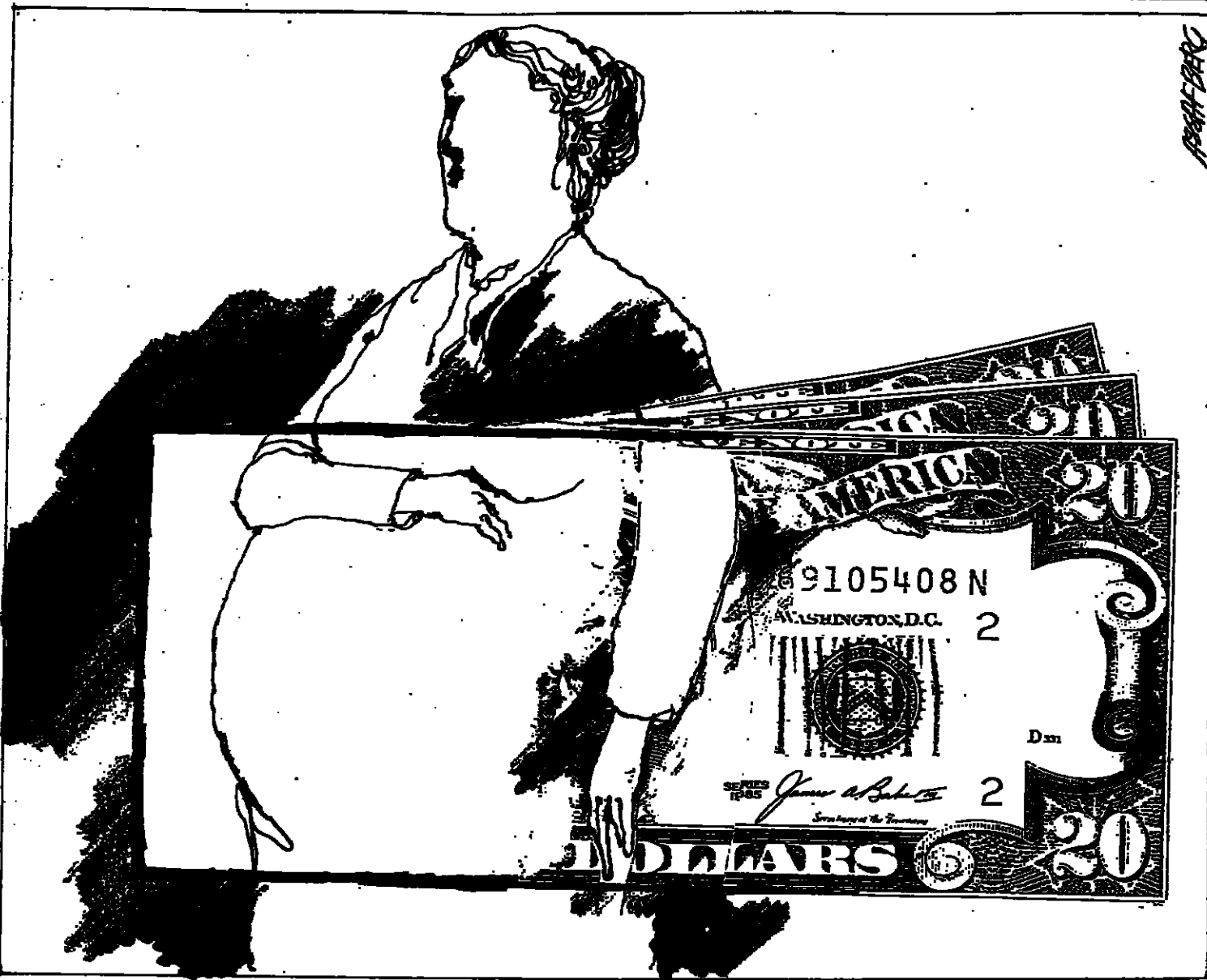
Why not indeed? Would they have cast a shadow on a process that has become our main objective? How can there be peace without justice?

A small example: We gave back all archeological finds from Sinai to the Egyptians, but have been unable to secure the return of precious ancient Torah scrolls in the now empty synagogues of Cairo and Alexandria.

WOJAC's demand for a voice in the "peace process" was belatedly taken up by the Likud's negotiating team in Washington following the Madrid Conference. The present government, in discussing the return of Arab refugees who could undermine the shrinking Jewish state, hasn't played this potent political card, which represents a just cause.

Twenty years after WOJAC's foundation, it is time our government studied the facts compiled by the organization and made them internationally known. Then, perhaps, not only the Israeli public but Abu Me-dein and Yasser Arafat - and even the US government - will be shocked.

The writer is a founding member of WOJAC and serves on its Israel Executive.



Nine months of exploitation

RIVKA M. OLSHITZKY

SUPPORTERS of the health minister's bill on surrogate motherhood say that the state must legalize surrogacy because a couple's automatic right to parenthood outweighs the taboo on exploiting a person's body, even with his or her consent.

But a closer examination of surrogacy reveals a clash with four enlightened social principles that have taken centuries to develop. These principles can be expressed in terms of four prohibitions: human experimentation; selling children; selling the parts of living persons; and slavery.

Surrogate motherhood violates each of these prohibitions.

Bearing a child on behalf of an infertile couple is a continuous medical experiment on the surrogate mother's body. The experiment includes each stage of pregnancy. It starts from the hour the fertilized egg is implanted in the surrogate mother's uterus via a surgical process, and continues throughout the pregnancy, with constant examinations of the pregnancy's progress and the woman's health.

The pregnancy's effect on the surrogate mother's mental and physical health is also an experiment, since pregnant women undergo hormonal changes that vary in their effect on each woman.

The birth is a medical experiment, as it is impossible to know in advance whether it will be a natural birth, or if a cesarean section will be required.

And if there is any danger during the birth, this raises a question: Who has the right to make a medical decision - the infertile couple, or the surrogate mother?

Clearly, surrogacy tramples upon the prohibition against experimentation on human beings, even if they themselves agree to the experiment for the sake of medical advance.

Selling children, including infants only a few days old, is entirely beyond the pale. But authorizing surrogacy means authorizing the sale of children, because it legitimizes negotiating an agreement in which the infertile couple receives from the surrogate mother a child which will

belong to the couple.

If the bill permits "ordering" a pregnancy from a surrogate mother, with the egg being neither hers nor that of the woman who ordered it, why shouldn't the egg be declared the property of the surrogate once she receives it?

And why is the surrogate mother able to "sell pregnancy" to the infertile couple, when the woman who produced the egg

and her uterus to the infertile couple, all in the name of the couple's automatic, genetic right to parenthood.

IN THE past, couples of means and social standing could obtain a maidservant who would bear the man's children if his wife had trouble becoming pregnant or giving birth.

Now, under the auspices of advanced technology, we are re-

even to give birth, can the courts prevent her from doing so? If she wants to get married, should that be forbidden? Suppose she wants an abortion - should she not be allowed one?

What if she desires to work in a field that could endanger the unborn child? Or desires to drink alcohol, or have sexual relations?

The claim that a woman's opting for surrogate motherhood makes a concession of her right to make decisions regarding her body contradicts tradition. This claim has been wrongly used to justify a shameful exploitation of human rights.

Surrogacy is basically an opportunity for a woman to sell her freedom, to concede her independence. Such a brutal arrangement, which gives infertile couples the opportunity to have a child by exploiting another human being's body, cannot and should not be legitimized.

If we don't want to wake up, in the 21st century, to a society that uses women as childbearing machines under the aegis of modern technology, we must remove this bill from the Knesset's agenda.

At the same time, we must find a more humane, just and egalitarian way to alleviate the distress of childless couples - like encouraging adoption (from both here and abroad), and simplifying adoption regulations.

The writer is the chairwoman of the Law Committee of the Israel Women's Network.

Legalizing surrogate motherhood would be a step back into a darker age

cannot sell it? For humanitarian reasons, selling parts from a live human being is forbidden even in cases where a woman, of her own free will, is ready to sell her cornea, kidney, or any other body part.

Yet legalizing surrogacy would permit trading in women's uteruses. It would become a business dealing.

Let's look at it from an infertile couple's perspective: They would be able to rent a uterus the way anything else can be rented; for the surrogacy agreement is a contract authorizing the use of a woman's body for nine months of continuous service. As such, it enslaves the surrogate mother

turning to this kind of situation. Couples whom nature has prevented from having children of their own can hire a childbearer. And it is almost certain that the women who, for a fee, will subject their bodies to the continuous experiment of pregnancy and birth on behalf of infertile couples will come from a lower socioeconomic class.

The following questions shed light on issues surrounding surrogacy that the bill does not address - the surrogate mother's freedom and the basic rights of childbearing women - which could potentially cause far-reaching damage.

If the surrogate mother wants to go abroad for a vacation or

That vital focus inward

HISTORY will not judge Shimon Peres and the other leaders of our time by their successes or failures in relations with the Arab world, but rather by their ability to forge a sense of unity and purpose among Israelis.

The assassination of Yitzhak Rabin and the bitterness within Israeli society demonstrate that the threat to Zionism and Jewish survival from within is at least as great as that from without.

As the successor not only of Rabin, but also of Theodor Herzl, Chaim Weizmann, and, most important, David Ben-Gurion, Peres has both the historic obligation and the opportunity to launch a revival of the Zionist movement and a redefining of its objectives.

Unless the political leadership is able to repair the damage and drift of the past three decades, whatever accomplishments are made in the peace process will be short-lived. If Israel is perceived as divided, lacking in purpose and resolve, and vulnerable, peace agreements will be shredded quickly, and war will return in full force.

Ironically, even if Peres's first priority is directed outward, to reach any lasting agreements with Syria or in the permanent status negotiations with the Palestinians, he will first have to focus inward.

Unfortunately, in the first three months following the assassination, Peres, as well as Haim Ramon, Ephraim Sneh, Yossi Sarid, and other political leaders have focused in the wrong direction, and haven't even shown that they understand the problems.

This government has made negotiations with Syria and coordination with the PLO its first and exclusive priority. While obsessed with building a "New Middle East" and roads to link Tel Aviv and Damascus, Peres and his colleagues have ignored the fundamental problems faced by the Jewish people and Zionism at the beginning of the 21st century. (These issues have been left to Yehuda Amital and Yossi Beilin, both ministers without portfolio.)

TO REVERSE the intolerance and divisions, the active leadership and participation of the prime minister and other political leaders is required.

This does not mean that negotiations with Syria and implementation of the Oslo agreements should stop, only that Peres give

GERALD M. STEINBERG

at least equal priority to internal Israeli and Jewish issues.

On this score, the alternatives proposed by Binyamin Netanyahu and the Likud are no different. The leadership of the opposition is at least as fixated on the external agenda as the government. Netanyahu's public statements, and the emphasis given to the renewed demonstrations against the peace process, do not demonstrate that much thought

Fixated on the external agenda, the major parties ignore the social and cultural chasms that divide Jews

has been given to the steps necessary to restore national unity.

Of course, responsibility for developing this national renaissance does not lie exclusively with politicians. It extends to educators, religious leaders, authors, artists, and even journalists. Working in parallel, these people have the ability to shape the national agenda. Here, there are a few signs of hope.

The religious and settler organizations have begun a process of self-examination, and, along with Peace Now, have acknowledged the importance of dialogue, mutual understanding, and construction of a common Israeli agenda. Some authors have started to explore the basis for restoring national unity and a sense of purpose.

The key to this process is a revival of the broad-based and historic goals of Zionism. Although the remnants of the Jewish people have a physical and

political home that is, for now, relatively safe, the Jewish renaissance sought by Ahad Ha'am and many other founding fathers has barely begun.

For the past three decades, Israeli society has been dominated by a secular community that has been systematically stripped of any knowledge or interest in Jewish history or culture. At the same time, the smaller religious community has become exclusivist and messianic. To repair the damage and restore the common sense of national purpose, the two communities must cooperate in developing a viable Jewish culture and society.

The responsibility for presenting and gathering support for this process lies with Israel's political leadership. The upcoming election campaign provides a unique opportunity for both Peres and Netanyahu, as well as members of the Knesset and other politicians, to demonstrate their ability to lead the Jewish people and Israel, and to bridge the social and cultural chasms that divide this country and threaten its future.

If these critical issues of national purpose and direction are ignored, and if the campaign is divisive and only increases the splits and intolerance, whoever wins will end up with a government, but without a nation to govern.

The writer is a senior research associate at the BESA Center for Strategic Studies, Bar-Ilan University.

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First NATO troops killed in Bosnia

SARAJEVO (Reuters) - NATO's commander said yesterday the alliance was doing all it could to ensure the safety of its troops in Bosnia after three soldiers were killed and a dozen hurt in a string of explosions.

The casualties to the NATO-led force implementing the Dayton peace accords underline the dangers to both military and civilians from unexploded munitions in post-war Bosnia.

Two Portuguese and an Italian were killed in an explosion late Wednesday evening at a former maternity hospital in Sarajevo being used as a barracks.

A Portuguese army spokesman in Lisbon told the Portuguese news agency Lusa that one of the soldiers had picked up a bomb while on cleaning duties and taken it back to the barracks where it exploded "due to mishandling".

Military analysts believe that millions of mines have been strewn across Bosnia during the bitter 3-1/2-year war and many of them have been placed haphazardly without any maps.

A NATO spokesman said another six Italians and a Portuguese were wounded in the blast, the worst incident since the Implementation Force (IFOR) began its operation to enforce last month's Bosnia peace agreement.

NATO Supreme Allied Commander George Joulwan said everything was being done to ensure the safety of the Atlantic alliance's troops in Bosnia.

"There are several things being done on the security side to ensure our forces take the necessary precautions," he told a news conference at the end of a visit to Moscow.

In a separate incident on Wednesday three members of the French Foreign Legion were injured, one seriously, during an explosives instruction session.

A French military statement said the accident was caused by a "premature explosion" at the Raslje camp five km south of Mount Igman overlooking Sarajevo.

Four Danish soldiers were slightly hurt on Tuesday when their Leopard tank struck a mine in northern Bosnia. They were flown by helicopter to a field hospital for treatment.

The British crew of a Warrior combat vehicle survived unhurt when it ran over an anti-tank mine near Mrkonjic Grad in central Bosnia on Wednesday.

"The crew were shaken but there were no injuries", military spokesman Steven Kilpatrick said in Gorzji Vakuf. The road had been cleared but the Warrior apparently slipped off the edge. The track was blown off and three wheels were damaged.

Three children in Sarajevo were not so lucky when they stepped on mines near buildings recently abandoned by Serb forces. One lost a foot and the others parts of their feet.

"We wanted to see what is out there," 17-year-old Muamer Brdic said as he and a friend were being treated in hospital. "There was nobody to stop us, only flags that said 'Mines'."

A US Congressional committee heard the danger to NATO peacekeepers from land mines was serious but manageable.



Workers remove a painting of Hendrick Verwoerd, the architect of apartheid and the then prime minister of South Africa (standing second from right) from the lobby of the old assembly wing of the South African parliament building in Cape Town yesterday. The painting and other icons of the apartheid era are being put in storage and will be replaced by a UN anti-apartheid exhibition.

Council of Europe votes to let Russia in

COUNCIL of Europe parliamentarians of the lashed Russia for its use of force in Chechnya yesterday but leaned grudgingly towards voting a "yes" to Russian membership of the 38-nation group.

As deputies in Strasbourg debated Russia's human rights record heatedly, President Boris Yeltsin pledged in Moscow that he would stick to the path of political and economic reform. "I am not going to betray it," Yeltsin said.

Economic reform chief Anatoly Chubais, pro-Western Andrei Kozyrev and Kremlin chief-of-staff Sergei Filatov were ousted in a shake-up widely seen as an olive branch to the communists, who have the biggest number of seats in parliament but no majority.

The removal of Chubais, Yeltsin's leading reformer, shocked democrats and alarmed Western investors. Yeltsin yesterday appointed industrialist Vladimir Kadamnikov, the head of Russia's biggest carmaker, AvtoVAZ, to replace Chubais. He is close to the more conservative side of the Kremlin's inner circle.

Ernst Muehleman, the Swiss parliamentarian who wrote the keynote report recommending Russian council membership said: "The security of all of Europe is at stake." He warned that a "no" could make Russia turn aggressive against its neighbors.

The council's parliamentary assembly opened a daylong debate on Russia's applica-

News agencies STRASBOURG

tion and planned a vote last night.

A yes vote would make Russia the council's 39th member and mark a step forward for pro-Western forces in Moscow who want to involve the country more closely in European organizations.

A majority of the 263-member assembly seemed to agree it was better to admit Russia despite its democratic shortcomings than to isolate it and lose the chance to encourage reform.

"To vote for membership of Russia is to vote for hope in Europe," Peter Schieder, an Austrian Socialist, said during debate.

The assembly's three largest political groups - Socialists, Christian Democrats and Liberals - planned to vote for Russian membership, making it likely the Russian application will get the required two-thirds majority.

But some assembly members, including most of conservatives and delegations from the old Soviet states of Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania and the Ukraine, planned to vote no.

Hallgrim Berg, a Norwegian Conservative, described Russia as "a country where human rights are violated every day" and said Russian membership would send the council's high prin-

ciples "down the drain."

The council has made a priority of admitting countries of the old Eastern bloc to encourage democratic reform. Russia would become the 15th former communist country to join.

President Boris Yeltsin and other Russian leaders have appealed to the body to consider Russia's recent progress and to give reformers a boost.

Rejection, Yeltsin said in a statement, "will be interpreted as a refusal to support those who struggle for the establishment of democratic principles and democratic institutions in Russia."

He promised Russia "will stand firmly on the principles of democracy and human rights," though he conceded his country "still has a lot to do" in those areas.

Russia applied for membership in the council in 1992. But negotiations were suspended last February after the council protested Russia's use of force in Chechnya. Negotiations resumed in October.

In joining the organization, nations must pledge to obey the council's 1950 European Convention on Human Rights, which entitles their citizens to bring suit in the European Court of Human Rights for civil rights abuses.

Nations also must accept more than 100 council-monitored international accords on topics ranging from sports to animal welfare.

China coy on threat to Taiwan

BEIJING (AP) - China refused yesterday to rule out a military strike against Taiwan and declined comment on a report that it has planned a specific attack.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Chen Jian renewed warnings to Taiwan to stop provoking China by promoting its independence. China's Communist Party leaders have pledged to use force if necessary to retake Taiwan.

Chen did not repeat the threat, but, in response to reporters' questions, he implied the option remained. Several times he refused to offer explicit assurances that an attack would not be launched.

"If the Taiwan authorities stick obstinately to their wrongful position, the interests of the Taiwan people will be harmed in the end, but again I refuse to make any speculation," Chen said.

A report published Wednesday in *The New York Times* stirred the latest wave of rumors about China's intentions, pushed the dollar higher against the Japanese yen and caused Taiwan's stock market to fall 1.47 percent.

According to the report, China's military has plans for limited action against Taiwan - perhaps conventional missile strikes - if President Lee Teng-hui does not stop his moves to raise the island's international stature.

The report, based on a meeting China specialists had with US National Security Adviser Anthony Lake, also said the military tried to sound out Washington's intentions in the event of an attack.

Time runs out for Utah child-killer

DRAPER, Utah (Reuters) - Barring a last-minute appeal or reprieve, convicted child-killer John Albert Taylor was to face a five-man firing squad today, the first to do so in the United States since Gary Gilmore in 1977.

Taylor, 36, sentenced to die for the 1989 rape and murder of 11-year-old Church King, has admitted burglarizing the King apartment but has maintained his innocence in the murder.

Death penalty opponents worked feverishly yesterday in hopes of stopping the execution scheduled at five minutes after midnight. Taylor was moved to a special cell where he was isolated from other prisoners and put under a 24-hour watch.

Visits from family were to end last night and attorneys will have to leave 50 minutes before the execution, Department of Corrections spokesman Randy Ripplinger said.

But he said Taylor "can virtually up to the last minute" seek an appeal in a federal court system and a federal judge will be standing by. All state appeals have been exhausted.

Lawyers against the death penalty are hoping Taylor will have a change of heart and are standing by in case he does.

Taylor has requested a pizza with everything on it for his last meal and a pack of cigarettes has been bought for him. Ordinarily Utah prisoners are not allowed to smoke.

Britain, Ireland at odds over Ulster poll plan

LONDON (Reuters) - A damaging rift opened up between London and Dublin yesterday as the Irish government reacted with dismay to British Prime Minister John Major's proposal that elections could offer a new path to peace in Northern Ireland.

Irish Prime Minister John Bruton, Major's partner in the search for peace, complained that he had not been consulted in advance about the idea, which he said could be interpreted as threatening an agreed timetable for a political settlement.

"That will create distrust, perhaps unjustifiable distrust, but distrust just the same," Bruton told the Council of Europe parliamentary assembly in Strasbourg.

Irish Foreign Minister Dick

Spring said earlier elections could lead to a dead end and chided Major for ignoring other proposals put forward by former US senator George Mitchell.

Bruton and Spring did not reject out of hand elections as a way of building confidence between the province's pro-British Protestant majority and its Catholic, nationalist minority.

But they noted that in a report Mitchell had cautioned that an election would have to be broadly acceptable and with an appropriate mandate.

"Our worry at the present time is that these conditions will not be met and the election idea could prove to be a cul de sac," Spring said.

Major plumped for an elected all-party forum as the route to

peace talks after Mitchell bluntly told him that his preferred option - partial disarmament by the IRA and rival Protestant guerrillas leading to round-table talks - was a non-starter.

Mitchell, heading a three-member mediating team, recommended instead that the guerrillas, who fought a 25-year civil war before calling ceasefires 16 months ago, should hand in some weapons while talks take place.

To the fury of nationalists, Major rejected Mitchell's compromise, saying it would not find favor with Protestant politicians.

Protestant parties, however, have said they may be prepared to negotiate with nationalists in an elected body, even if the Irish Republican Army continued to refuse to disarm.

Major, defending his proposal, said talks could start right away if the IRA and its political wing, Sinn Fein, would agree to scrap guerrilla weapons.

"If they will begin the decommissioning of their arms there would be no justification for any party not to attend and join in all-party talks," Major told parliament.

Asked whether there was now a serious dispute between Dublin and London, Spring said: "Well, I think there's a problem, but in the past the two governments have worked together and we've done so successfully to make progress."

Britain and Ireland launched a joint initiative in December 1993 to try to bring peace to Northern Ireland.

O.J. Simpson tries to win over Americans

LOS ANGELES (AP) - In his first TV interview since the slayings of his ex-wife and her friend, O.J. Simpson sought to win back the hearts and minds of America, imploring viewers to believe he is not a killer but telling them: "If you don't like me, leave me alone."

"I did not commit those murders," Simpson said. "I couldn't kill anyone, and I don't know of anyone who was involved."

He landed his slain ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson as a great mother and "next to my mom, my most favorite person on this Earth." He said he would mourn her death forever.

In the five, hour-long interview with Black Entertainment Television's Ed Gordon, a composed but sometimes emotional Simpson made an impassioned plea to the public to accept his acquittal. He also expressed anger at relatives of the victims.

He reminded the audience of several million about the old O.J., the football hero, sportscaster, and movie actor.

"I was gracious to people. I like to think that I was modest, and I've worked my butt off for what, 20 years, to attain a certain wealth, and it's all gone," Simpson said.

Simpson, his voice wavering at the end of the

interview, said in his life, "I treated you like I wanted to be treated, and that's the only thing I'm asking now."

"If you don't like me, leave me alone," Simpson said as he turned to look directly at the camera.

Simpson's media interview was his first since the June 12, 1994, killings of Ms. Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman. Simpson, acquitted Oct. 3, spoke briefly to *The New York Times* and the AP shortly after the trial and made a surprise call to Cable News Network.

Simpson answered most of Gordon's questions directly but wouldn't discuss specifics of the case because of his upcoming mail-order video and the wrongful-death lawsuit filed by Goldman's parents and Ms. Simpson's estate.

During the interview, Simpson insisted he had a right to tell his story "to support my children" and rebuffed Gordon's suggestions that he "give America something for free" by discussing details of the murder trial. Simpson said he already gave the police a free interview when he was arrested and suggested that should have been introduced at his trial.

With a slight laugh, he said everyone could hear his alibi "for \$29.95" on the video.

who have warned the crisis will hurt the economy, suggested Samper step down temporarily while prosecutors investigate.

"He is seriously weakened in the exercise of his authority and his capacity to govern," a group of 15 national business associations said in a statement.

The president rejected those calls in a speech on national television, saying to resign would be "an act of cowardice."

'Colombian president masterminded drug donations'

BOGOTA (AP) - A defense lawyer claimed yesterday that Colombian President Ernesto Samper not only knew that drug money was used in his election bid, he planned the illegal contributions.

The latest allegation in Colombia's political crisis goes further than comments earlier this week by Fernando Botero, Samper's 1994 campaign manager. He said only that Samper knew the Cali cocaine cartel had donated mil-

lions of dollars.

"Of course, it was Samper who made the order," said Fernando Londono, Botero's attorney.

"Only two people on the campaign had that power, Samper and Botero, and it wasn't Botero." The scandal has prompted calls for Samper's resignation from student groups and opposition lawmakers. A leader of his ruling Liberal Party urged him to step down. Colombia's business leaders,

who have warned the crisis will hurt the economy, suggested Samper step down temporarily while prosecutors investigate.

"He is seriously weakened in the exercise of his authority and his capacity to govern," a group of 15 national business associations said in a statement.

The president rejected those calls in a speech on national television, saying to resign would be "an act of cowardice."

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2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. B. Flusin, A. Kofsky
4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. B. Bitton-Ashkelony, S. Kaplan

Tuesday, February 6
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. H. Ben-Shammai, A. Elad, Y. Frenkel, C. Ernst
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. I. Hen, S. Scheln

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daughter of Michael and Stefani Traub

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In very deep sorrow, we announce the death of my dear husband, our father and grandfather

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a memorial service and the unveiling of the tombstone will be held today, Friday, January 26, 1996 (5 Shvat 5756) at 11:00 a.m., at the cemetery, Rehov Pinsker, Herzliya.

The Family

Handwritten text in Arabic script at the bottom of the page.

Shula blew it, and she did it her way

Aloni's announcement that she's stepping down as Meretz leader may mask a downfall like that in classic tragedies, Sarah Honig writes

Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni — on paper still Meretz's No. 1 — vowed that she is not quitting politics and is not going home to crochet doilies. This despite the fact that she dropped out of Meretz's race for the next Knesset.

But in Meretz they say they are not so sure that this is really so. The popular line is that Aloni really is going home, though no one believes she can crochet. Her pledge to carry on the struggle for the cause is seen as mostly bravado to cover up for failure. In Meretz, they prefer to think that Aloni is just putting up a front but will not set up a new party to compete with Meretz in the niche she argues exists to the left of Meretz, between it and the Hadash Communists.

But while her erstwhile colleagues in Meretz engage in psychoanalyzing their embittered leader and explaining why she cannot risk a new political venture, they reveal a bit of their own psychology: they are dreadfully afraid of Aloni. Even if she does not wipe Meretz out, as she probably can't, she might hack away enough support to lower the already dimmed prospects of what in 1992 was the shining star on the leftist margins of the political firmament.

Today not only the polls are inauspicious. The Meretz membership drive, despite its extended deadline, is far from being a runaway success. Half the registered members come from Mapam kibbutzim, and it's hardly Meretz's

goal to be no more than a glorified version of the diminutive Mapam.

So in Meretz the wishful predictions are that there won't be any fire despite so much smoke, that Aloni's implied threats are empty and that she is bowing out of politics — albeit not so gracefully.

ONE MERETZ MK, speaking in politically incorrect and unbecomingly sexist terms, took the unkindest cut when telling the *Post* that "after all, this is a question of age. Look at Shula's pictures from the time she was a firebrand in the 1960s and '70s, a real thorn in Golda's side."

"She was refreshing on the Israeli political scene crowded with old men."

"She was a young cheery dish, very easy on the eyes. But the Aloni who appeared on TV to announce her decision to in effect leave Meretz, was an old woman despite her best makeup efforts. It almost hurt to look."

"The march of time is inexorable and what happened was unavoidable, though the style of her departure could have been different. But that's characteristically Shula."

The MK continues, "Shula will not be all that missed in Meretz. She has done her job here and, cruel as it may sound, her useful contribution is over."

"[Her departure] will not be so much of a loss to us as [it will be] to the political right and to the religious parties. They will rue the day that she left politics. No one ever furnished them as much



As a firebrand in 1961 (right), she wowed them, but even her disciples complained about her inability to change as a minister. One, Yossi Sarid (above), challenged her leadership. (Isaac Harari)

ammunition as she did and the likelihood is that no one ever will."

Such words from within Meretz highlight Aloni's downfall, perhaps her personal tragedy. For those who only a few years back regarded her as their mentor to almost say "good riddance" indicates that in her often misplaced fervor, Aloni had become an embarrassment to her own party and increasingly a liability.

In near consensus, political observers in recent days ascribed this to Aloni's inability to adjust herself to the establishment of which she had become a part. Thus Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban (who is quitting too but without rancor) argued, "Shula's is an opposition mentality. Her mindset is such that she can't reconcile herself to a situation in

which she is part of government and not railing against it. She can't abide the pragmatism which Meretz had to practice as a party of government."

THAT THERE is some merit to this perception is doubtless. But there is more. Meretz is a party of Aloni's making. In 1973 she founded the Citizen's Rights Movement, an irreverent, militant breakaway faction from Labor. It was a one-woman creation and remained so. Even in the early days, Aloni did not gladly suffer competition within. Her CRM went on to become the mainstay of the three-way coalition which comprises Meretz. The CRM was Meretz's only vital component.

The Marxist Mapam relied on Hakibbutz Ha'artzi support and was a vestige from the past. It had



"As it turns out, he wasn't a mess."

She apparently did not protect her rear and found interloper Sarid amassing more and more clout in her party. When the Labor government was formed in 1992, Sarid was the one who actually felt betrayed. He was given no portfolio and he sulked in a manner far from the altruistic image he likes to project. He claimed he was "abandoned wounded on the battlefield."

IT WAS then, say Meretz pundits, that Sarid began undermining Aloni with no holds barred. And she afforded him perfect opportunity. Her penchant for volubility and provocative utterances united the religious parties as never before. She chose to lash out at a schoolgirl who, after visiting Majdanek, said she was proud of the Israeli flag. She took prime minister Yitzhak Rabin to task for saying *Shema Yisrael* at the end of his address at the Warsaw Ghetto memorial. And that was only the beginning.

Even in Meretz these were seen as gratuitous outbursts that served no sensible purpose. Shas clamored for Aloni's dismissal from the Education Ministry and Rabin

was fuming. The more untenable her situation became, the more abrasive and abusive her tone. She lost the coveted education portfolio, and, on the coattails of her own personal folly, the wounded Sarid was extricated from the battlefield and awarded the environment portfolio.

Sarid is a master communicator and had steadily become the one to whom the press went for reactions and for Meretz's viewpoint. From the sidelines of her minor ministry, Aloni wistfully watched him enter the negotiating team with the PLO and come as near to being Rabin's pal as one could.

Sarid emerged as one of the cabinet members closest to the center of power, while Aloni receded further and further into the background, occasionally shattering her political doldrums with another volley of ill-considered words. Her pronouncements in fact waxed shriller and more extreme as her political isolation mounted. They were all that won her brief media attention.

Privately her disciples told reporters they wished she would learn that silence is golden. They now viewed her as a problem. If Aloni's suspicions of Sarid could at first be ascribed to paranoia or envy, it became clear that she indeed had something to fear. Rumbblings materialized into an outright challenge by Sarid for the party leadership.

IT WAS a challenge that Aloni could not meet. Her only recourse was to avoid the showdown altogether, despite embellishing her move as one borne of her party's failure to crusade for civil rights.

"Shula is like the classical tragic hero whose own traits, those which raise him as his remarkable greatness, are also the very ones which inevitably pull him down," opines the unkind Meretz MK. "Tragically, without Shula's own active help, it would not have been possible for Yossi to usurp her party from her... She has only herself to blame."

Fuad plows his way through the Labor hierarchy

THE WEEK THAT WAS MICHAL YUDELMAN

ONE Labor candidate at least has been quietly forging a clear pathway to the top of the party's Knesset list — Housing Minister Binjamin (Fuad) Ben-Eliezer.

Plowing his way through the country, Fuad has carved an impressive, straight furrow through the minds of Labor activists, mayors and MKs. This is especially apparent in the open plains of the central region, from Gadera to Rishon LeZion. Fuad's pulling power was underscored by a mass gathering near Rehovot last Saturday.

Yet, on the flatlands Fuad is running neck-and-neck with other candidates, except in the Arab sector where he stands head and shoulders above every other challenger. Earlier on Saturday, he hosted a gathering of hundreds of Arab leaders in Arara, and was practically smothered with love.

Sheikh Ra'ad, the leader of the Islamic movement, called on everyone to vote for Fuad. The elections in the Palestinian Authority were in full swing, but nobody in Arara was bothering with them. Fuad, not Abu Amar, was the man of the moment.

What gripped them all were the significant advances in their villages since 1992, improvements they unanimously attribute to Fuad.

Fuad wants more than a satisfactory place on the list. He is waiting for Prime Minister Shimon Peres to appoint him head of the election campaign. He cites an agreement on this with Yitzhak Rabin, whose assassination shuffled the cards for many Labor people.

Fuad's position was slightly to Rabin's right — an attractive stance for centrists seesawing between Likud and Labor.

In all his speeches, Fuad makes sure no one forgets his goal of developing metropolitan Jerusalem, which means building thousands of homes around the capital.

Interior Minister Haim Ramon was once considered a natural for campaign leader. But sources close to Fuad contend that Ramon can only preach to the already converted; he cannot bring Labor the prize of voters from the right.

Nor should Fuad's popularity among Sephardim be overlooked. They see him as one of their own. This is tough competition for Labor Secretary-General Nissim Zivli and Public Security Minister Moshe Shahal, who also cover the campaign leader post.

Fuad is pushing for early elections, believing that Labor should cash in its credit with the public, regardless of talks with Syria. He is convinced the elections will be advanced to May or even earlier.



Uzi Meshulam (l) continues to wreak havoc, even from his luxury cell; Ben-Eliezer wants to head Labor's election campaign.



(Times/Vered Photo; Roni Hadani)

The beauty of elections, some think, is in the eyes of the beholder. So a new crop of faces is giving them something to behold.

Take new Labor hopeful Avigdor Lichtenstein, the local glamor-world hair designer who thinks he can improve Israel's internal as well as external beauty.

Lichtenstein is convinced his fans can outvote those of MKs Eli Ben-Menahem, Yoram Lass and Gideon Saguy, former MK Michael Bar-

Zohar, Yossi Spering, Ron Huldai and other squares in the Tel Aviv region.

"All the models and beauty queens say I'm the leading power in the district," he gushed for all the beautiful people who may have missed his pledge to lower taxes. Some "beauty queens" have assured him they registered as Laborites only to support him in the primaries.

Lichtenstein did admit in an inter-

view that if he makes the Knesset, he will have to leave all that beauty and glamor stuff to his wife, Jacqueline.

There are issues he deems no less important: the woes of small businessmen and shopkeepers, taxi drivers and others paying what they consider excessive taxes.

However, even as a Knesset member, darlings, he will always be just one of the people, "the barber everyone knows."

What a great asset to the Knesset Lichtenstein could be. If he takes a stab at the peace process, a free coiffure for Arafat or Assad could clinch a close deal and do wonders selling their new image to Israelis. And MKs will always have a blow-dry expert handy before those Channel 33 House cameras roll in. Eat your heart out, David Levy.

WIMPS PARTY

Ah democracy! At election time, Britons get the Monster Raving Loony Party for light relief from the serious stuff. Not to be outdone, Israelis are coming up with a party for battered men, for those poor lads whose wives refuse to divorce them so they can marry their mistresses.

and those tricked into fatherhood by evil female sperm-thieves.

"Some people haven't yet heard of the condom," said some sarcastic MKs. No, it's responsibility for one's actions they haven't heard of, reformed others (of the female gender).

Wimps Party leader Amnon Aviad is sure it will get five mandates. And, just as MK Yael Dayan fights for women, his party will battle for the victimized men no one takes seriously when they complain they are being beaten by their wives.

Meshulam supporter, singing that Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal should be hanged.

Another youth group appeared at the Western Wall to hand out hate literature against the world's most evil man — Shahal, of course. The youngsters sported red shirts with yellow patches bearing the words: "Remember the Judenrat."

At last, the authorities acted, putting seven of Meshulam's followers who share his prison "suite" into solitary confinement for being rude to a prison officer.

However, the troublemakers were allowed out of solitary "only" for prayers and meals "so they could eat and pray together." Needless to say, they managed to make these activities last most of the day.

The prison authorities were ordered to investigate the shenanigans and whether the Meshulamites are enjoying benefits denied lesser prisoners.

The prison authorities? The same who bestowed the privileges on Meshulam and ridiculed media accusations that they had done so? Maybe "prison authority" Meshulam should be asked to head the investigation.

PRISON AUTHORITY

Self-ordained "rabbi" Uzi Meshulam continued to demonstrate you don't have to be free to spread terror and play havoc with the security forces.

From his prison cell — boasting a sleek air conditioner, washing machine, clothes dryer, massage bed, etc. which would be the envy of many a summer camp — he continued to make trouble.

At the beginning of the week, a group of Haifa children swapped school for the greater fun of donning yellow patches and, led by a

The Ministry of Immigrant Absorption - Employee Department announces the opening of a new semester of the Center for Employment and Counselling on February 13, 1996.

The Center offers a framework of assistance for the purposes of obtaining employment. The program includes job-search workshops, personal counselling, placement services, courses in professional terminology and Hebrew improvement and other activities.

The Center is designed for immigrants who have completed ulpan and who have been in Israel for no more than 21 months.

The program lasts for three months, during the morning hours and the goal is to find employment within that time.

Among course participants, those who are eligible can receive subsistence payments as well as reimbursements for travel expenses.

For more information and to schedule an appointment with the acceptance committee, consult with the Center nearest you:

Tel Aviv: 32 Yigal Alon St. Tel: 03-396199, 398366 (open Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.)
Haifa: 30 Shmiryahu Levin St. Tel: 04-665525
Jerusalem: 5 HaMem Gimmel St. Tel: 02-373929, 371186
Beer Sheva: 79 Ha'Atzmaut St. Tel: 07-273397, 233675
Kfar Sava: 1 Szold St. Tel: 09-919949
Afula: "WIZO" Community Center, Shikun Ovdim. Tel: 06-421383/4

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We will meet at the entrance of the cemetery at Givat Shaul.

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The cost of the seminar includes tour bus from Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and return, admission to all lectures, use of guest house facilities, twice daily bus to the sulphur baths, half-board per person in a double room, etc. etc.

The dates: Monday, January 27 - Wednesday, January 31

The place: Kibbutz Ein Gedi Guest House

The price: NIS 925.

For reservations and further information: SHORASHIM: POB 7588, 14 Rehov Abarbanel, Rehavia, Jerusalem 91074. Tel. 02-666231 (9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.). Ask for Romit or Tami

Officials look to correct aid 'anomaly'

A web of regulations complicate efforts to aid survivors who waited behind the Iron Curtain for compensation, Marilyn Henry reports

Together in Kiev, Haya and Bayla survive the Nazi occupation of the Soviet Union. Then, trapped behind the Iron Curtain, they miss the deadline to file for Holocaust reparations from the West German government.

When new compensation funds become available, the injustice will be compounded, because the difference between Haya and Bayla will be 4,000 deutsche marks.

Haya leaves Kiev for Tel Aviv or New York. She applies for compensation from a special German restitution fund for Nazi victims that Jewish negotiators have managed to open and keep open for more than 15 years. She gets DM 5,000.

Bayla stays in Kiev. She applies for compensation from another German-financed fund, one that was created in 1993 and that gives her, perhaps, DM 1,000.

"Historic anomaly," says Stuart Eizenstat, the US envoy to the European Union and the US State Department's special envoy for property claims in Central and Eastern Europe.

There are tens of thousands of Hayas and Baylas.

"What worries me is that those who emigrate to Israel from the same ghetto get more than those who stay," said Tatyana Zhvanetskaya, a survivor of the Minsk Ghetto who works for the Moscow Organization of Jewish Former Victims of the Holocaust.

Relief officials are struggling mightily to assist those who stay.

From day one, in the early 1950s, there have been restrictions on German compensation. It was limited to victims of Nazi persecution who were German nationals, former German nationals, stateless persons or refugees, according to the Conference of Jewish Material Claims against Germany, known as the Claims Conference.

When then-West Germany passed its basic indemnification law for Nazi victims, many European Jews were ineligible. A French Jew who was deported to a concentration camp and returned to France after the war would not meet the criteria. He was neither a former German national, nor a refugee or stateless as a result of the war.

Bonn then entered bilateral agreements with the Western European states that had come under Nazi occupation and gave these governments lump sums for payments to local victims of Nazism.

There was nothing for the Iron Curtain countries.

The survivors who met the criteria for funds but who remained - for whatever reason - in countries under communist control got no direct or indirect payment from Bonn's compensation programs.

"This decision was made because the communist governments could not be relied upon to get hard currency to the survivors under their domination," Eizenstat said this week at the General Assembly of the World Jewish Congress.

Survivors from those countries,

became eligible for compensation programs only when they left the Eastern Bloc, although many were not permitted to emigrate.

When mass emigration from the Soviet Union began in the 1970s, many survivors were among those coming out.

But there was a catch on compensation. By then, the deadline for filing a claim under the West German indemnification law was long past and Bonn was unwilling to reopen it.

Instead, in 1980, West Germany and the Claims Conference established the so-called hardship fund for Nazi victims who had received no compensation earlier. They would receive a one-time payment of DM 5,000 (today worth about NIS 10,000) which has remained constant.

The German government initially provided DM 400 million for the fund, estimating that there would be 80,000 positive claims. However, the number was much higher. More than 134,000 claims have been approved; more than half of those to people in Israel. Tens of thousands are under review, and new claims are still being filed, according to the Claims Conference.

Of every 1,000 emigrants from the former Soviet Union, between 80 and 100 were victims of the Nazis, according to Saul Kagan, the executive director of the Claims Conference.

The Hayas are in that group.

BAYLA WAS still in Kiev after the Soviet Union collapsed. Her ability to get compensation rested on one of four bilateral agreements the unified Germany entered to provide some compensation to all Nazi victims.

Germany contributed DM 1 billion in 1993 to three of the successor states to the Soviet Union, for the "Foundation for Understanding and Reconciliation." Ukraine and Russia each received DM 400m, and Belarus, DM 300m, to compensate Nazi victims within their borders.

The fourth bilateral agreement was with Poland, and included DM 500m, in 1991 for the "Foundation for German-Polish Reconciliation."

This is the historic anomaly: survivors of the same circumstances getting different compensation.

"The country of origin made no difference during the Holocaust," said Benjamin Meed, head of the American Gathering of Holocaust Survivors. "It should make no difference in reparations."

Further, the former East Bloc states use the money to compensate all victims, including non-Jews who were subjected by Germany to forced labor, creating a large pool of people - of whom Jews are a tiny fraction - competing for limited funds.

"I am told that the German agreement with Belarus aims largely to compensate forced laborers," said Eizenstat, who recently concluded a fact-finding tour of Central European and Baltic states to review the status of property restitution.

In Russia, those who can document they were in ghettos between 1941 and 1944 can get onetime compensation from the German-financed foundation.

The payment is based on a formula that hinges on how much time was spent under occupation, with those who were younger than 18 at the time getting more than those who were older. The range is from 400 to 1,360 marks, Zhvanetskaya said, speaking through an interpreter.

Those who were in hiding get nothing precisely because they cannot document it.

KLARA VINOKUR of Kiev won't refer to the funds as compensation. Vinokur, the secretary of the Babi Yar Memorial Fund, calls it onetime humanitarian aid from the German-financed fund.

Ukrainian Jews who were in ghettos or concentration camps get 900 or 1,000 marks, depending on their age at the time of the occupation, she said.

Demographers estimate that by the end of the century there will be 350,000 Jewish pensioners in the former Soviet Union. The Baylas - the victims of Nazism - are among the estimated 170,000 who will need help at the end of the century.

There are no people in the Jewish world who are more in need than elderly pensioners in the former Soviet Union, relief officials say.

"They have a diet of one pound of bread a day and nothing else," said Michael Schneider, executive vice president of the Joint Distribution Committee.

In the Soviet system, people ate. But the transition from communism to free market wiped out the social safety net, which wiped out the pensioners' security. At first, the problem was masked as pensioners relied on savings to sustain themselves. Then they began to sell their possessions until they had nothing left.

Jews were especially hard hit because they were unlikely to have relatives who had access to food from collective farms, Schneider said.

Field workers would find desperate pensioners, who would direct them to two others. "Who would direct them to still others."

Individual assistance is not available through the Claims Conference. Payment is restricted to that from the foundations that are financed through Germany's bilateral agreements with the former communist states. Under the rules set by the German government, only applicants from the former East Bloc states now residing in other countries are eligible for the hardship fund, which the Claims Conference administers.

TWO YEARS ago, the Claims Conference, working through the Joint and local agencies, started distributing food to needy survivors. By the end of this year, they expect to have distributed 304,000 food packages since the program's inception to Jews in Minsk, Belarus; Kiev, Dnepropetrovsk and Kharkov, Ukraine; and St. Petersburg, Russia.

The Claims Conference-funded

program is limited to areas in which survivors are a substantial portion of the Jewish population.

"Each time the Claims Conference provides assistance for victims, we are doing our utmost to compensate for non-victims," Schneider said.

The Joint is also distributing tens of thousands of food packages in 284 other cities. Each package contains 10 kilograms of protein and supplements and costs \$10 to \$14.

The goal is to provide up to six food packages a year to those who need them. "Our aims are very modest," Schneider said.

"We hope to bring the condition of nourishment up to the level that existed under communism," he added, noting the irony.

Food is only the beginning. Survivors, along with tens of thousands of others, may be bed-ridden or in acute social isolation.

There are more than 100 local welfare societies, which with the Joint's assistance are serving 70,000 elderly Jews. A Joint institute in St. Petersburg is training welfare officials. With help from the Claims Conference and a US philanthropic organization, the Joint has upgraded welfare centers in five major cities, and plans to upgrade two more.

The goal is to have major welfare centers to serve the major cities and their peripheries. Schneider estimates that by the end of the century, each welfare center would have between 15,000 and 20,000 cases. Some 15,000 are now getting some form of home health care.

"There's no way we can provide institutional care for this population," Schneider said.

There are other needs of the most basic sort: 2,000 wheelchairs, 7,500 canes, a soup kitchen to serve 10,000.

"I would estimate that containing the situation in the most difficult way would cost \$20m a year," said Schneider.



Brush with death at Beit Lid

Ivan Shani, 51, recounts to Margot Dudkevitch how he helped the wounded at the Beit Lid bombing a year ago.

Time: January 22, 1995; 9:20 a.m.
Place: Beit Lid Junction.

I was driving with some colleagues to attend a weekly seminar at the Pardesiyah Psychiatric Hospital.

My car had been causing problems and the motor would often cut out.

I stopped at the traffic light, and suddenly there was this terrific blast followed by an eerie sort of silence. The light changed and my car stalled. A few seconds later, my car restarted and I pulled up to the prison and parked.

Confusion reigned, there were people yelling. We jumped out of the car and raced toward the kiosk, where an explosion had occurred.

About 25 meters from the kiosk, a second explosion went off. It blew one of my friends off of his feet. My ears were ringing.

Someone shouted to us, warning us not to come closer in case there was another bomb. I hesitated for a few seconds, but I couldn't just stand there and look at all those soldiers scattered all over the ground, burnt and bleeding. I had to help.

I volunteer with Magen David Adom, so I've seen road accidents, but nothing ever prepared me for anything like this. Young boys were lying on the ground, some calling out in agony, some missing limbs.

As I worked ferociously, using medical kits that staff from the prison had quickly brought to the scene, I was oblivious to everything other than the wound I was dealing with at the moment, concentrating on determining what could be done for it now.

I worked on a scoop-and-run basis, putting them on stretchers and slipping them off to hospital. As minutes ticked by, I stabilized some, comforted others and attached intravenous drips, doing whatever I could.

Ambulances and medical teams were rushed to the scene. They took the injured to hospitals and collected the dead bodies so they could be identified.

I think almost an hour went by before I returned to the car with my friends. I was exhausted. We went to search for a cafe and a good strong cup of hot black coffee and then continued on to Pardesiyah.

I felt a deep urge to continue my routine, to keep on going, so we went to the seminar and spoke about what had happened.

I still suffer flashbacks from that morning.

I see those young faces and still smell that horrible odor of burning flesh. One minute we were happily traveling in the car and the next minute we were racing to tend to the wounded. It's such a switch in reality - all those youngsters dying for no reason.

If my car hadn't stalled at the light, who knows what could have happened.

This wasn't my first brush with death. During the War of Attrition, I received a head injury while fighting in the Golan. A week later, I returned to duty.

I am slightly jealous of the ease with which people in other countries live out their lives. I left South Africa because I was against apartheid, and here everything is so intense.

We are signing peace agreements and giving up land while innocent people are being killed. I want to believe that true peace will prevail.

RICHARD M. GOODMAN
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One fellowship of \$15,000 will be awarded annually, by the National Foundation for Jewish Genetic Diseases, to a Ph.D. student, post-doctoral fellow, or a young M.D., at the beginning of his/her research career. It will allow the Fellow to pursue his research at Tel Aviv University, or one of its affiliated institutions on genetic disorders that occur more frequently in Jews.

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1) A research proposal, not longer than 3 pages of text. 2) A current curriculum vitae.
3) A statement from a scientist, indicating his willingness to sponsor the research, and a brief summary of the proposed research.

Applications are due by April 1, 1996. The fellowship will be awarded on June 1, 1996.
The material should be sent to: Prof. Israel Ashkenazi, Chairman, Department of Human Genetics, Sackler School of Medicine, Tel Aviv University, Israel 69978 Fax: 972-3-6409900.

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ON THE
Eight pages
Review. Stc
and opinions

Lest we forget

CAPITAL TALK
TEDDY KOLLEK with Amos Kollek

Often when I write this column, I find myself criticizing virtually everything and everyone: Our education system, declining idealism among our youth, the media which invade people's privacy and supply information according to the wrong priorities about fanatics and extremists in our midst, the government and city administration, and so on and so forth.

Criticism, I feel, is valid and necessary, since it might help improve things a little and perhaps be of interest to the reader at the same time. Besides, it is not surprising that I criticize, since after all I am a person who has devoted his entire adult life to public service. I cannot be expected not to care, not to worry where the country is heading, not to try to safeguard achievements.

Of course, I am not the only one who does this. These days there is a growing trend of criticizing, of finding faults and drawing grim conclusions. Everything seems to be under the microscope. Revisionists are reviewing and rewriting history, "discovering" that the heroes of 50 or 25 years ago were not so heroic after all. That these leaders were flesh and blood and made more mistakes than we had previously admitted. It is the custom today, not only in Israel but everywhere in the Western world, which we could say now includes the former Soviet Union, to put everyone under scrutiny.

At one point or another, almost every public figure is suspected of some wrongdoing and of egotistical motives. Often there follow prolonged and humiliating police interrogations with full media coverage. This is one of the reasons that fewer and fewer good people enter politics.

Why be degraded and criticized? Why submit your family to public harassment? It is an unfortunate fact that bad news and scandals seem much more interesting than good news. You can sell a newspaper with a headline about someone who has murdered his wife or mistreated his children much more easily than one with a report on the great success of immigrant absorption. A corrupt politician makes better copy than one who wins the Nobel Peace Prize.

So, while I find myself to some extent caught up in this syndrome, I am not a critic merely because I want to sell newspapers, but because I want to make things better.

I don't want to forget for a moment all the great things that have happened to us and are still happening every day. Our accomplishments. The things we do right.

Who would have thought that a people so badly battered by the most horrible atrocity in history, the Holocaust, would be able to build from scratch and under the most difficult conditions, a strong, solid modern state, with high

levels of education, culture and technology? Who would have thought that in under 50 years we would have built beautiful cities, modern highways, and a level of industry and culture that can compete with any European state that has been in existence for hundreds of years?

Think of all the libraries, schools, sports facilities, parks and museums. Criticism is needed, in a constructive measure, but let us not forget the good things, the incredible achievements. As a nation we need to strengthen our sense of self-worth, not weaken it. We must reinstate pride and love for our country.

We have every reason to do so. No passport should make a person who possesses it more proud than the Israeli one. I have no doubt that with all the incredible things that have happened on our planet over the past 10 decades, Zionism and the birth of Israel will stand out as the greatest and most lasting achievement of the 20th century.

A new exhibition recently opened at the Bible Lands Museum in Jerusalem, showing the great cities of the past, including Babylon, Nineveh, Susa and others. Of all the cities highlighted, the only one still in existence today is Jerusalem. Jerusalem without a port and without a river and with barely any great advantages has continued to exist and flourish.

Some Palestinians claim to be the descendants of the Canaanites, but where is the connection? Today, who speaks their language or continues their culture? Go into the Shrine of the Book at the Israel Museum and read the Dead Sea Scrolls that are 2,000 years old. Hebrew is still our language.

All of Europe is struggling over the absorption of refugees and immigrants. The reunification of Germany was expected to be easy. On both sides there are German Christians and still they have had great problems. In Israel we have been highly successful, yet only the failures are stressed in the media. Even the aliyas from Ethiopia, despite the very special difficulties faced by this particular group of immigrants has been fairly successful.

We are also fed up with the behavior and language we observe in the Knesset. We are upset about it and rightly so. We should take the time to acknowledge the achievements and quality of our people.

Jews came to Israel from 104 different ethnic backgrounds and our democracy was strong enough to find room for all of them. So why are we always complaining?

Once, from time to time, a good word should be said. Don't just criticize, also praise; praise the government. To remind us that the State of Israel is something to be proud of. I know that all of us can think of some good things about our country...

CNN atones for rare boldness

EYE ON THE MEDIA
DAVID BAR-ILLAN

Just before Christmas, on December 20, CNN's Jerusalem bureau chief Walter Rodgers defied conventional wisdom. With uncommon boldness, he suggested that Palestinian Christians are not ecstatic about the PLO takeover of the territories. (He was not alone in this. The AP wire service and Voice of America ran similar pieces.)

Introducing a short news segment which included interviews with three Christian Arabs, he said: "Bethlehem is among the holiest of Christian sites, but now many Christians see themselves as an endangered species. Once 80% of the [Bethlehem] population, their numbers have dwindled now to less than half that, and the Christian exodus abroad continues."

"Many Palestinian Christians left because they feared their children might join the intifada. Others left because the Israeli military occupation choked Bethlehem's economy, making jobs scarce. And now the growing fear of Islamic fundamentalism increases the Christian sense of isolation."

"Today, Bethlehem is a predominantly Muslim town. At Friday prayers, they spill into Manger Square, so crowded are the mosques. Christians complain they're publicly harassed and harangued for their faith. The Christian cemetery has been desecrated and vandalized. And the imam declares Allah brings victory. Bethlehem's Christians ask: Victory over whom? A fiery sermon mocks moderate Palestinian policies and calls the upcoming Palestinian elections a farce."

"Fights between young Christians and Muslims are not uncommon. Dragged away by a friend, this Christian boy said the Muslims are fascists, bad people. Muslim families of 10 and 12 children leave smaller Christian families awash in an Islamic sea, afraid they will be overwhelmed by the refugee camps and Muslim villages around Bethlehem. Many of the town's Christians are afraid to talk openly now."

"To students of the Christians' situation in the territories, this is, if anything, an understatement. But Palestinians, used to unflinchingly favorable treatment from the networks, were incensed. Journalist Daoud Kuttab sent an internet message decrying "CNN's poison regarding Palestinian Christians," in which he not only excoriated Rodgers but averred he was a liar: "When I pushed him he said that he spoke to some 30-40 people (I doubt that it was more than half a dozen)."

The message tried to debunk the CNN report - not by refuting the allegations but by impugning their alleged source: "A lot of these stories began by a push from the ultra-Zionist International Christian Embassy."

It also called for protests to be sent to CNN. "I am trying to organize local Christian leaders and organizations to write to CNN and complain about this poisonous report. I spoke to Mayor Freij and to Hanan Ashrawi. But we must do more... Many of you need to write CNN in Atlanta..."

Kuttab also sent a letter to CNN president Ted Turner, claiming that the report was a "completely biased portrayal of the situation of Christians in Bethlehem."

Whether it was Kuttab's complaint, or protests from Freij and Ashrawi, or just CNN reverting to routine Israel-bashing, the fact is that four days later CNN did somersaults in the air to atone for Rodgers' momentary lapse.

On December 24 Hanan Ashrawi was a guest on two separate programs from Bethlehem. This time it was a very different Rodgers on screen, with expert propagandist Ashrawi selling her usual fabrications.

RODGERS: As a Palestinian, as a Christian, how does it feel, looking out over that Square?
ASHRAWI: Well, it feels great... It's overwhelming in many ways. It's a double celebration. There's a real sense of joy, a real sense of hope. Something that, in a sense, has historic vindication in it. For the first time in 28 years, I, myself, come to Bethlehem on Christmas Eve...

RODGERS: There has been a large political undercurrent to all of these celebrations in Bethlehem now, and I've heard some grumbling from some Christians who suggest that perhaps Mr. Arafat should have been more subdued, more low key. Would you address yourself to this criticism, to the grumbling we've heard?
ASHRAWI: Well, yes. I think many people felt that the religious component, the more spiritual aspect of Christmas has been in many ways overtaken by the national and nationalistic fervor. But you cannot separate them. Right now, there is a fusion of the religious and the national, and there is a sense of liberation that encompasses both. Many people would much rather have seen a more subdued, a calmer religious atmosphere in Bethlehem. But, for 28 years we've been celebrating Christmas in the shadow of the gun and under occupation. So, now the removal of the occupation has become another occasion, and they came close together in a sense. Had the withdrawal taken place earlier, then I'm sure that the religious component would have been more dominant.

(All that unfortunate unpleasantness about persecuted Christians is straightened out now. If a prominent Arab Christian like Ashrawi says all is well under the PLO, it must be so. And if the "nationalist celebrations" - which included the placing of a large plastic model of the Dome of the Rock on a church - overshadowed Christmas, it's all Israel's fault. It should have withdrawn sooner.)

RODGERS: What was it like for a Palestinian to live under the military occupation here in Bethlehem or Ramallah where you live? Give us a sense for why they feel so joyous, the Palestinians.
ASHRAWI: Well, the occupation to me is the most pervasive, the most oppressive kind of intru-

sion, and military repression is the worst kind of repression. We didn't have any freedom. We couldn't celebrate our own identity, our own humanity, we couldn't even express it. We didn't have freedom of movement. We didn't have even freedom of worship, because we couldn't get to Bethlehem. We couldn't get to Jerusalem on occasions. Right now, Jerusalem's still under siege.

(Most CNN viewers have no way of knowing that "we couldn't get to Bethlehem" is an invention, an unconscionable fabrication. Access has always been totally free. Even on days of closure following murderous terrorist attacks, Ashrawi could get to Bethlehem from Ramallah. But her ability to fabricate with a straight face, as she did when she claimed to be a descendant of the first Christians, is one of the wonders of the modern era.)

RODGERS (speaking to camera): And while Muslims do not revere Jesus as the Messiah, He is nonetheless highly esteemed as the first Palestinian revolutionary.

(Here Rodgers may claim that he is only citing what the Palestinians say. But the distinction between such citing and a statement of fact is lost on the viewer. To call Jesus the first Palestinian revolutionary is an insult to history and intelligence, and an offensive propagandistic ploy. And it's a safe bet that Kuttab, for all his passion for accuracy and despite his Christian faith, will neither deny Ashrawi's fabrications nor be insulted by Rodgers's reference to Jesus as a Palestinian.)

RODGERS: What is the face of Christmas yet to come here in Bethlehem, it's difficult to say, but one thing is certain at this point - Yasser Arafat is firmly in control, Yasser Arafat, the former terrorist is now the leader of the Palestinian nation has the keys, the symbolic keys to Bethlehem, the site of Jesus' birth.

(What is even more admirable than Arafat's incredible journey from the world's most notorious terrorist to guardian of Christian Bethlehem is the way his propagandists have managed to convince the world not only that Jerusalem, never mentioned in the Koran, is central to Islam, but that a Jew born in "Bethlehem of Judea" (Matthew 2:1), in "the land of Israel" (Matthew 2:21) was a Palestinian.)

But CNN's statement did not end in Bethlehem. At year's end, a round-up of 1995 events on CNN included three terrorist incidents: the Oklahoma bombing, the bombing of the Buenos Aires Jewish community center and the attacks on Turkish workers in Germany. Not a mention was made of the suicide bombings in Beit Lid, Ramat Gan and Jerusalem. Nor was there a mention of the fact that the victims of the Argentinean bombing were Jewish and the main suspects Moslem militants. In short, according to CNN, Moslems may have been victims of terrorism in 1995, but never perpetrators.

Rodgers may have tried to scratch CNN's sacred cow, but he was made to see the error of his ways with utmost alacrity.

He ignores the singers and the shooters alike

VIEW FROM NOV
MOSHE KOHN

PRIME Minister and Defense Minister Shimon Peres resembles Yitzhak Rabin in his lack of respect for words. I have the impression that he even surpasses Rabin in his frequent resort to what Winston Churchill called "terminological inexactitude."

That disrespect extends to recorded historical facts, as well as to the contents of the Jewish people's basic texts - the Talmud, midrashim and, shockingly, the Bible.

Not to mention the scorn to which he exposed himself, even in the eyes of educated secularists, when he mispronounced the words of a brief passage from the High Holy Day service in the speech he read at the ceremonial signing of Oslo II in Washington last September.

It is people's acts that count, not their words. Peres - like Rabin before him - has declared in one formulation or another, time after time, upon being confronted with incivility and murderous words uttered by PLO chief Yasser Arafat and his underlings.

Hence we rightly expected our government to respond vigorously, in both word and action, to the repeated PLO violations of terms of the accords, violations belying Arafat's professed commitment to pursuing a "peace of the brave." But the official response has been, almost without exception, a dismissive shrug.

Almost as invariably, our official dismissal of Arafat & Co.'s anti-peace words and actions is followed by an official distributive against the "enemies of peace," as our official spokesmen have branded Jews and our Christian allies who raise the question of our so-called peace partner's incitement and violations.

As we approach the Knesset elections, it would be educational to examine Peres's record in abusing language.

This will be especially instructive if we bear in mind the "words can kill" mood that enveloped our society following Rabin's assassi-

nation.

That dictum has been hurled accusingly at the right-wing and national-religious communities and institutions in which Rabin's murderer, Yigal Amir, and his circle lived and participated.

However, Peres did not see fit to pronounce "words can kill" over the revelation last month that some Israeli Arabs were distributing a cassette containing a song praising Arafat's private militia, Force 17, in murderous anti-Israeli terms. The song's refrain is:
Force 17 in Gaza and Jaffa.
Force 17 in Jerusalem and Haifa.
Force 17 in Ramallah and Jenin.
Force 17 in Lod and Acre.
Zionist, your death is in my hands.

Peres's reaction: "There are those who sing and those who shoot. I'm checking out those who shoot." (The Jerusalem Post, December 19)

What of the PLO and Hamas murderers walking about freely in the Autonomy flaunting their weapons?

What of the PLO's ignoring our requests for the extradition of wanted murderers?

IT IS also instructive to recall Peres's regret over having been caught lying.

On October 11, 1993, a month after the Declaration of Principles was signed and Rabin and Arafat shook hands on the White House lawn, Peres, then foreign minister, sent a letter to Johan Holst, the Norwegian foreign minister who had played a central role in the negotiations that had preceded the Israel-PLO compact.

Peres stated in Israeli's name: "...the Palestinian institutions of East Jerusalem and the interests and well-being of the Palestinians of East Jerusalem are of great importance and will be preserved... [They] are performing an essential task for the Palestinian

population. Needless to say, we will not hamper their activity; on the contrary, the fulfillment of this important mission is to be encouraged."

In May 1994, when we signed the Cairo accords with the PLO, Arafat mentioned the existence of this letter, which Ha'aretz reported on June 2. Peres and Rabin denied its existence. Five days later Peres released the text of the letter, and two days after that Rabin took responsibility for having withheld it.

In a July 1 interview with the Post's David Makovsky, Peres said his only regret about the whole affair was "that it became public."

Several months later, Peres denied the existence of a report by the IDF Judge Advocate-General that contained criticism of Israel's handling of PLO violations of the Cairo accords. Likud MK Binayamin Begin proved Peres a liar by producing a copy of the report at a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

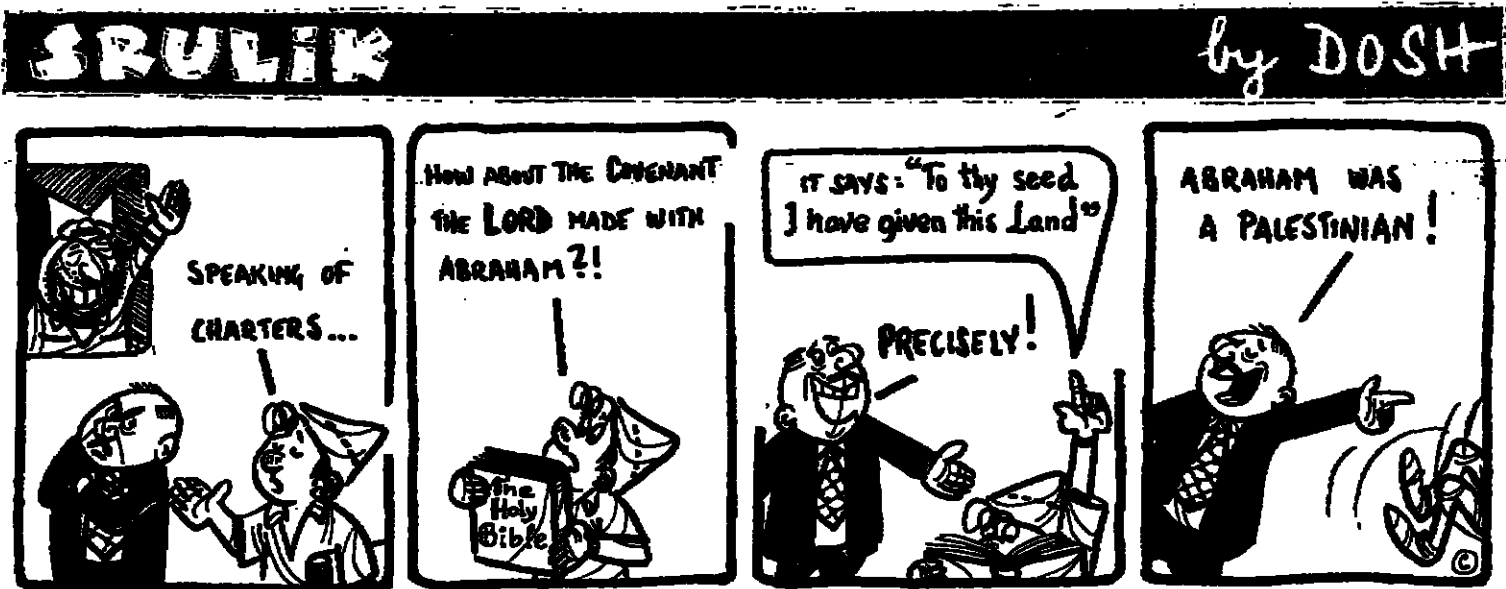
A FEW more Peresian pearls:
- "Go back where you came from!" - to Ruth Matar of Jerusalem, a critic of Labor's peace policy, in December 1993 during a brief confrontation with her when he detected the Anglo-Saxon accent in her Hebrew.

He never apologized, and his spokeswoman said that though he "regretted making the remark, he preferred not to make an apology that would draw unwarranted public attention to the incident."

Imagine an American secretary of state making a similar remark to a foreign-accented American. The Anti-Defamation League, American Jewish Congress, American Jewish Committee, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Society of Mexican Americans, Arab Anti-Defamation League, etc. would never let him off as easily as Peres was let off.

"The more we give up land, we discover we have more PhD's per kilometer - so we are going to make a living on PhD's, not on mileage." - speaking to faculty and students at the University of Pennsylvania in October 1994.

"There isn't a democratic country in the world that requires a special majority." - when asked in an August 8 radio interview if a special majority is necessary in order to surrender territory. He was right, if one excludes the US, Norway, Sweden, Australia, New Zealand and Austria, which are among 31 democratic countries and American states which do so according to a survey published by the Jerusalem-based Shalom Institute.



It's who you are, not your birthday, that counts

SHABBAT SHALOM
SHLOMO RISKIN

"And it came to pass that at midnight the Lord smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne, to the firstborn of the captive that was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the cattle." (Exodus 12:29)

WHY is the killing of the firstborn the most significant plague? Perhaps because this final plague dealt a death-blow to an institution of ancient culture which God found objectionable: primogeniture, the primacy of the first-born.

We find the theme of the firstborn at the start of the Bible, when sibling rivalry between Cain and Abel is reflected in the rejection and acceptance of their respective sacrifices to God: the hypocritical gift of the firstborn Cain is rejected, while the more sincere offering of the younger Abel is accepted. Part of Cain's vexation is due to the fact that he sees his firstborn status as having been overlooked - and so it was.

A fundamental message of the Bible is that deed, not birth date, establishes status. Thus Abraham's eldest son, Ishmael, must step aside for the younger Isaac because the former is a *metzahel* - a scorned and an adulterer.

Of Isaac's two sons, Esau must give way to Jacob, since the former has scorned the birthright, both by selling it for a mess of pottage and by taking Hittite wives.

Jacob's first-born is Reuben, but having "moved" his father's bed (either an attempt to determine with whom his father would sleep after the death of Rachel or a euphemism for illicit relations with his father's wife), he is deemed unfit. In his place, leadership passes to Judah and Joseph.

With the creation of the Jewish people in the Book of Exodus, the prevailing rule of the firstborn is

coming to an end. Indeed, the Egyptians' sin boils down to the idea that if you're born an Egyptian you have the right to enslave, and if you're born a Hebrew, you have no rights at all.

Therefore the killing of the Egyptian firstborn not only strikes terror into the hearts of every household, but tolls the death knell for the institution of the firstborn. People are to be judged by merit, and not by birth.

Historically, the movement toward a meritocracy describes a fascinating evolution within the Jewish people. Despite the biblical rejection of firstborn sons, primogeniture continued to hold sway, with the leadership of the nation consisting of the firstborn sons of the tribal families. The rule of the firstborn comes to a dramatic end when the nation - including the firstborns - worships the golden calf.

Leadership is then transferred to the Levites because they alone restrained themselves, paving the way for the birth of a priestly class. Nevertheless, we can still find traces of this firstborn institution in the *pidyon haben* ceremony, in which fathers "redeem" their firstborn sons from being dedicated to Divine service by giving five shekels to a priest.

Eventually, the priestly class also grew corrupt, and tried to arrogate kingship as well as priesthood. After their failure and the resultant civil wars, leadership passed to the Sages, the institution which survives today as the most complete and democratic expression of Judaism.

dedicated himself to Torah.

Membership in the Sanhedrin was based on solid intellectual and ethical achievements. The ultimate expression of this change of attitude is to be found in a Mishna: "A product of a forbidden sexual liaison who is a sage takes precedence over a high priest who is an uneducated boor." (Mishna Horayot 13)

Yet we are struck by a verse in Exodus. There we read how God instructs Moses to address Pharaoh: "Thus says the Lord: Israel is my son, my firstborn." Doesn't this description of Israel contradict everything we've been saying until now?

Let's consider three possibilities. First, these words can be seen as a warning to the Egyptians. You Egyptians, who see yourselves as the firstborn of the world, the greatest civilization, must understand that if there is a firstborn, then God, the father of all nations, will choose whom He wants, and it's not you, it's Israel!

Second, these words can be seen as a warning to the Israelites. The Almighty may be saying to Israel: "I have established a relationship with you first, but you have to prove yourself worthy in deed as well, otherwise you too can be replaced."

Third, these words may imply a combination of the above. There is an interesting difference of opinion between Rabbi Yehuda Halevy and Maimonides regard-

ing the essential character of the Jewish people. According to Halevy, the Jewish people are inherently holy. Maimonides, on the other hand, argues that there is nothing special about a Jew qua Jew; if a Jew keeps the Torah, he is worthy of his name, and if not, he becomes like the rest of the nations. Judaism, he believes, is a meritocracy.

Rav Avraham Yitzhak Hakohen Kook, in his *Letters* (No. 64), addresses this difference of opinion and provides an interesting resolution. He cites a talmudic passage: "You shall therefore keep My statutes, and Mine ordinances, which if a man does, he shall live by them..." (Lev. 18:5)

Rav Meir argues that the Torah's choice of the word "man" (*adam*) implies that even a non-Jew who busies himself with Torah and mitzvot is as great as the High Priest. (BT *Sanhedrin* 59a) However, the Torah does prophesy that ultimately it is the Jewish nation which will teach ethical monotheism to the world, and the Torah does guarantee the eternalness of that nation.

Hence, when God instructs Moses to tell Pharaoh that he must free His people Israel, "my son, firstborn," the words don't contradict His desire to dissolve the institution of the firstborn.

Each Jew is an individual, and thus cannot rely on the firstborn status of the Jewish people. If he doesn't keep Torah and mitzvot, Rav Meir and Rav Kook are saying, then any committed gentile can be greater. *Shabbat Shalom*

ON MONDAY - NYT DAY IN THE JERUSALEM POST

DON'T MISS:

Eight pages from *The New York Times Weekly Review*. Stories, reports, comments, analyses and opinions by some of the world's best known journalists.

DON'T MISS IT!



Anyone for Grob

CHESS
NICK KOPALOFF

If one were to scout the starting position of a chess game in search of White's worst possible move, 1.g4 could well be a serious candidate. It does not facilitate the natural development of a single piece, nor does it post a pawn in the center of the board. It voluntarily wrecks the king-side pawn structure, which usually shields the castled monarch, and it appears to be a move totally devoid of any logic.

Indeed, the two-move Fools Mate 1.g4 e5 2.f3 Qb4++ illustrates the absurdity of White's opening move.

Surprisingly, however, 1.g4 has been tried and tested and has won its own modest place in chess theory. It is known as the Grob, after the Swiss master Henri Grob, who did not achieve impressive results with it. Now, international master Michael Basman has picked up the reigns of the Grob and steered it into recognition with a string of fine victories against notable opposition.

7.gxh5 Rxb5 8.Bd2 a6? 9.e4! dxc4 10.dxc4 Nd7 11.Ng5 Nf6 12.Qf3! Ng6 13.0-0-0 Qe7 14.Kb1 Nf4 15.Rg1 Kf8 16.Ne2 Ne6 17.Nxe6 Bxe6 18.Ng3 Rh8 19.Bg5; Nunn may have freed his game by exchanging a pair of knights, but the pin of the bishop on g5 is a deadly one which is almost impossible to break.

19...Rd8 20.Be2 Rxb3 21.Qg2! Bc7

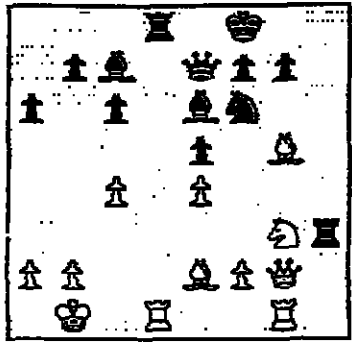


DIAGRAM 1 after Black's 21st move

The acclaimed former chess writer Daniel Marks noted many hidden trap lines in the Grob. While the unsuspecting victims would still be in a state of shock at White's nonsensical opening, he would let rip and record a quick win.

22.Nh5!; Basman's relentless threats down the g file, his mounting pressure on f6 and mate threats on g1, force Black to surrender material.

22...Rxd1+ 23.Rxd1 Rxb5 24.Bxb5 Qb4 25.Be2 Bxc4 26.Bxc4 Qxc4 27.Bxf6 gxf6 28.Qg4! Qe6 29.Qxe6 fxe6 30.Rd7 1-0

In his book *The Killer Grob*, Basman claims that the king need not necessarily strive for a quick king-side castling and that it can be used much more flexibly from its starting position in the center.

The reason why world champions have never been victims of the Grob, Basman maintains, is that they have not yet encountered it.

The following position from Amatzia Avni's internationally acclaimed book, *Creative Chess*, finds White seemingly unable to prevent the queening of Black's e pawn. But by playing what would appear to be one of the worst moves at his disposal, White can force a remarkable draw.

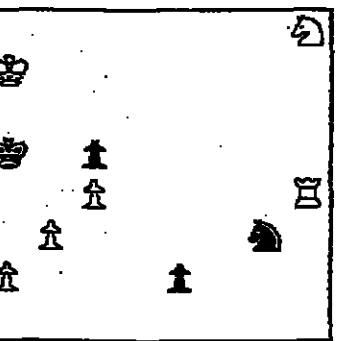


DIAGRAM 2 Solution: 1.Re4!! Nxe4 2.Ng6 e1Q 3.Ne5; threatening mate on c6. White's new queen is powerless to lend assistance as she is blocked by her own knight, the result of White's first move rook sacrifice.

3...Kb4 4.Nd3+ followed by 4...Nxe1 0.5 0.5

Chess has been enriched by the unresolved theoretical conflict between the scientifically-oriented Classicists and the avant-garde Basman brigade, which seems to embrace absurdity and tries and make some sense out of it. Classicists sometimes refer to the latter as new age, pronounced to rhyme with sewage, as a mark of their derision and ridicule.

But in keeping with my mother's rich adage, "The boss said I was an idiot and I agreed 'cause I'm no fool," Basman has been indifferent to this ridicule. He has stuck to his guns and has succeeded to shape the Grob into a crafted attacking weapon.

Basman, Michael - Nunn, John
Oxford 1978
The Grob
1.g4! d5 2.h3 e5 3.d3 Bd6 4.c4 c6 5.Nc3 Ne7 6.Nf3 h5



The first of the anemones are appearing in Galilee and the Jerusalem Hills. (Ya'acov Shalita)

Wild flowers come into bloom

NATURE
D'VORA BEN SHAUL

Right now is the time for the first of the anemones (*kalanio*), the so-called wind flowers, to burst into blossom all over Galilee and throughout the Jerusalem hills.

In the Jerusalem hills the flowers are red, due to the nature of the soil and to the general ambience. In Galilee it is another story. They range in colors from white to pale lavender and even deep purple. This shows, of course, that the ambience of the cultivated garden is not that of the field because virtually every color is propagated in gardens in these areas.

But it is the experience of the field that determines what will or will not occur in nature. It is not only the lovely windflowers that are at their best right now but also that rare and wonderful flower, the desert tulip, *Tulipa systola* (in Hebrew *zivoni hamidbar*).

This beautiful flower is found in the Negev desert and in the Arava

And there are also the delicate and by now rare blossoms of the field sword-lily. This is a very delicate plant known as *Gladiolus italicus* (in Hebrew *saifan hatavus*). It grows in Israel in fields and in fallow lands but suffers greatly from deep plowing and from modern herbicides. The leaves are long and lanceolate and the flowers are pink.

One of the real treasures of the season is the lesser celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*; in Hebrew, *marit halav*). This is a perennial plant of the crowfoot family and it grows in fields and in fallow lands in all of northern Israel. On the rare occasion when it appears, it does so in the Jerusalem hills, particularly around Sha'ar Hagai, but it is not known whether this is natural or a transplant. The end of January and all of February are rich months for those who seek the wildflowers.

A book deal

BRIDGE
MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

South dealer
Neither side vulnerable

North (Brett)	East (Mrs. Ravenall)
♠ KQJ8	♠ 62
♥ Q109	♥ K752
♦ 98	♦ 7654
♣ 762	♣ 854

West (G. Ravenall)	South (Harlett)
♠ -	♠ A1097543
♥ A8643	♥ -
♦ QJ102	♦ AK3
♣ KJ93	♣ AQ10

South 4♠	West pass	North 5♠	East pass
6♠	(all pass)		

My favorite bridge book of 1995 is *Contract Killers* by Phillip and Robert King. This is the second book by this British father-son writing team, Phillip a top player and his dad a playwright. The first was *The King's Tales*, a collection of short stories satirizing various well-known writers.

Their new book contains four novelettes, all takeoffs of popular novels: "The Bridgfather," based on Mario Puzo's *The Godfather*; "Contract for Murder," after Agatha Christie's *Cards on the Table*; "The Club," a takeoff of John Gisham's *The Firm*; and a satire of *Gone With the Wind* called "Harlett O'Scar."

This week's deal comes from chapter two of "Harlett O'Scar." The chapter begins with the heroine, Harlett, a spoiled southern belle, in a Mixed Pair competition in Atlanta, partnered by the notorious Brett Rutter (based on Rheet Butler, Clark Gable's character in the film version). As Harlett sorted her hand for the first board she was conscious of Brett's pitying smile as he watched her with eyes that saw everything.

"If you will permit a suggestion, Miss O'Scar," he drawled, "it might be best if you didn't move your lips while you count your points. With my rep-

utation as a scallawag, I might be accused of taking advantage of the information."

Harlett blushed angrily, but pursed her lips tightly as she continued her counting. She looked with satisfaction at her powerful hand and vowed that nobody was going to prevent her from playing the contract. She had a forcing four bid. The brief auction was sophisticated for the Southland. Everybody who was anybody knew that devious Yankee auctions were not meant for ladies and gentlemen. Dixie slam tries were like marriage proposals; the gentleman asked and the lady invariably accepted.

Their opponents were the best pair in Georgia. Gaylord Ravenall (West), a fine card player, led the queen of diamonds. Harlett (South) immediately cashed her king of diamonds and ruffed the third round, eliminating the suit, a maneuver that always gave her a glow of pride.

Deciding to stake everything on the double finesse in clubs, she first played the king of spades and, when West showed out, called for the queen. Brett averted disaster by selecting not the queen of spades but an unsolicited queen of hearts and before she could correct him, a low heart appeared from Mrs. Ravenall (East).

With a gesture of frustration, Harlett was about to ruff, when she saw the contract was practically certain. Ravenall could not hold the ace and king of hearts, or he surely would have led one. So she artfully discarded a club. Ravenall won the trick and chewed his blonde mustache. Eventually he selected a low heart and his wife's king was ruffed by Harlett, who drew the last trump and proudly claimed.

"Beautifully played, partner," said Brett, but his maddening smile told her that he had controlled events by cynically misunderstanding her call for the trump queen.

Ashty would never have done anything so *underhand*, she reflected.

And she would have been one down.

Contract Killers is available from B.T. Batsford Ltd., 4 Fitzhardinge Street, London W1H 0AH.

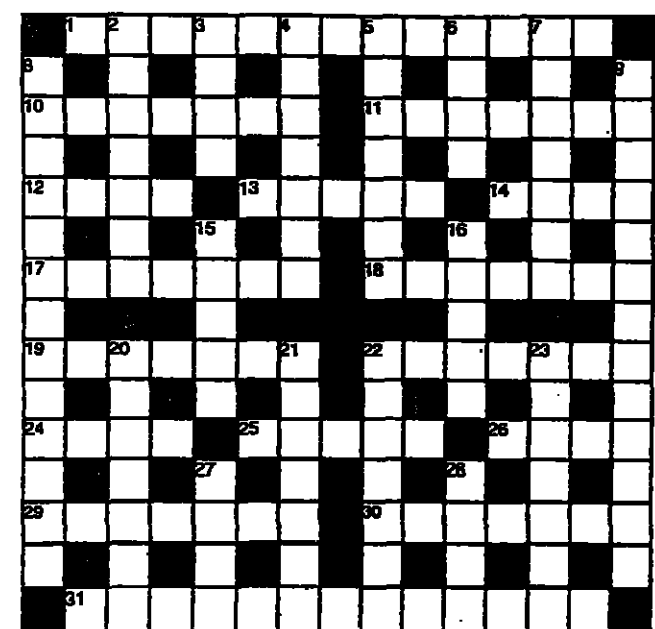
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Not relations of newly weds (3,5,5)
- 10 It doesn't allow an English doctor on Greek ship (7)
- 11 Painter, sanctimonious and a fool in company (7)
- 12 They accept what is sound (4)
- 13 Duck into a department store (6)
- 14 Unidentified girl accepts love (4)
- 17 Masses of books (7)
- 18 Circus hanger-on (7)
- 19 Remedy found in no way strange (7)
- 22 Purchase anew without right to pursue payment (5,2)
- 24 One who refused to accept tyranny and work in a bank (4)

DOWN

- 25 Being an employer helps to make you single-minded (5)
- 26 Water thoroughly (4)
- 29 Business in time makes money (7)
- 30 Acquit a drunk, now living on water (7)
- 31 Near the main holiday centre (7,6)
- 2 Generous in providing a form of Braille (7)
- 3 Sounds exhausted but alert (4)
- 4 I've lots of different flowers (7)
- 5 Prop used by non-leading actors (7)
- 6 A way through on foot (4)



SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 1. EYE, 4. BEHAVE, 5. VEGAN, 10. CATCH, 11. APEX, 12. REMOVED, 13. CAT, 14. ALSO, 16. EDDY, 18. PUP, 20. BEHAVES, 21. DEEP, 24. CORP, 25. APPEARS, 26. SOTTO, 27. NOTCH.

DOWN: 1. BEHAVE, 2. VAGUE, 3. REAL, 5. STUNT, 15. COINCIDE, 16. LEVERED, 17. SPEECH, 18. PENAL, 19. SPEECH, 22. REACT, 23. SPIN.

QUICK CROSSWORD

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Wedge (5) | 2 Devastation (5) |
| 4 Exhilarate (5) | 3 Admit (7) |
| 10 Income (7) | 5 Burdened (5) |
| 11 Funeral song (5) | 6 Uproar (7) |
| 12 Mother-of-pearl (5) | 7 Trick (5) |
| 13 Winding (7) | 8 Stop (5) |
| 15 Discard (4) | 9 Thick (5) |
| 17 Hesitate (5) | 14 Thought (4) |
| 19 In good time (5) | 16 Chief (4) |
| 21 Unfortunately (4) | 18 Clothes (7) |
| 25 Detonate (7) | 20 Attack (7) |
| 27 Perspire (5) | 21 Postpone (5) |
| 29 Permeant (5) | 23 Prize (5) |
| 30 Learned (7) | 24 Scatter (5) |
| 31 Vigilant (5) | 26 Command (5) |
| 32 Say (5) | 28 Banish (5) |

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- NIS 1,510 Anon., J'm.
- NIS 1,000 in loving memory of my parents - Anon., J'm.
- NIS 300 Eli and Sami Mann, J'm. In honor of Mildred Roloff from her Nabariya friends.
- NIS 250 Anon., Rehovot.
- NIS 200 Sarah Lynn Skanda, Tel Aviv.
- NIS 180 Eliza Stein, J'm. Anon., J'm.
- NIS 150 Anon., J'm.
- NIS 100 in loving memory of my dear husband, Dr. Lorenz Hirsch, Herziya. In memory of our deceased loved ones - R.A.S., Tel Aviv.
- NIS 80 in honor of the 80th birthday of Maurice Braverman - Haim Chertok, Yeroham.
- NIS 50 in honor of the recent wedding of my grandson Michael to lovely Anat - Ruth Balestra, Tel Aviv.

- NIS 42 in memory of Jack - CEE, Haifa.
- NIS 36 in memory of my mother B. F. Herzson - Flora Levy, Tel Aviv.
- NIS 25 in honor of the 50th anniversary of Jack and Rhoda Cohen - Estelle and Josh, J'm.
- NIS 18 in honor of Joe and Mildred Koch's 52nd Anniversary - CEE, Haifa.
- Rachael Levy, Kfar Habaal.
- \$1,000 The Biler Foundation.
- \$500 in honor of our four children: Dahiya, Ben, Jacob and Derek - Laury and Dennis Brown, Houston, TX.
- \$300 in loving memory of Alice Kamm, London.
- \$200 in memory of our brother, Ben Yudefreund - Sheila and Marvin Yudefreund, Dallas, TX.
- \$100 Harold and Adelaide Komar, Little Silver, NJ.
- \$50 Debbie, Randee, Michelle and Jaime Robbins, Baltimore, MD. Anon., Skokie, IL.
- \$36 Geri and Kip Gustin, Clallam Bay, WA. Anon. Member, San Francisco, CA. In honor of our new grandson - Harvey and Annette Mathew, Chicago, IL. In honor of my new great-grandson - Bluma Daniels, Chicago, IL.
- \$15 Virginia Randall, Scottsdale, AZ. Roy Asper, Winnipeg, Canada.
- \$15 Markham, Canada.
- \$100 in memory of my sister, Eva Wallace (nee Kaufmann) - Lilly Clyne, London.
- DM425 Additional proceeds from the Estate of Leah Freedman (27).

New Donations	Progress Totals
NIS 2,902.37	NIS 11,223.45
NIS 1,572	\$5,594.69

- NIS 25 in honor of the 50th anniversary of Jack and Rhoda Cohen - Estelle and Josh, J'm.
- \$500 Frank Forchheimer Philanthropic Fund of the Chabad Jewish Foundation.
- \$500 in honor of my mother B. F. Herzson - Flora Levy, Tel Aviv.
- \$200 Rabbi Shlomo and Victoria Riskin, Efrat.
- \$100 Harold and Adelaide Komar, Little Silver, NJ.
- \$50 Debbie, Randee, Michelle and Jaime Robbins, Baltimore, MD.
- \$36 B'nai Yeshurun Congregation, Cleveland, OH. Tzedakah collection of Kith Alev and Bet of the Solomon Schoeder Day School of Suffolk County, Commack, NY.
- \$25 Sisterhood of New Hope Congregation, Cincinnati, OH.
- \$15 Roy Asper, Winnipeg, Canada.
- \$10 Zelma Reynolds, East Texas, MI.
- \$18 in memory of Franya Beatus of Konin - Ken Barker, Edinburgh, Scotland.
- DM85 Additional Proceeds from the Estate of Leah Freedman (27).

New Donations	Progress Totals
NIS 2,902.37	NIS 11,223.45
NIS 1,572	\$5,594.69

WELCOME HOME FUND

- NIS 50 in honor of the recent wedding of my grandson Michael to the lovely Anat - Ruth Balestra, Tel Aviv.
- NIS 25 in honor of the 50th Anniversary of Jack and Rhoda Cohen - Estelle and Josh, J'm.
- \$500 in honor of our four children: Dahiya, Ben, Jacob and Derek - Laury and Dennis Brown, Houston, TX.
- \$100 Harold and Adelaide Komar, Little Silver, NJ.
- \$50 Debbie, Randee, Michelle and Jaime Robbins, Baltimore, MD.
- \$25 in memory of Felix Herbstman, father of Marsha Tuler - S. Calmas, Chestnut Hill, MA.
- \$150 in honor of our new grandson - Harvey and Annette Mathew, Chicago, IL. In honor of my new great-grandson - Bluma Daniels, Chicago, IL. Charles and Hyman Member, San Francisco, CA.
- \$15 Roy Asper, Winnipeg, Canada.

New Donations	Progress Totals
NIS 75	NIS 1,607
\$269	\$1,201

(Other currencies converted to NIS)

TOY FUND

- NIS 2,111.20 Anon.
- NIS 300 Miriam Dubsky, Herzliya.
- NIS 91.22 Anon.
- NIS 60 Barbara and Irit, Bet Shrin and Miami, FL.
- NIS 50 in honor of the recent wedding of my grandson Michael to lovely Anat - Ruth Balestra, Tel Aviv.

New Donations	Progress Totals
NIS 75	NIS 1,607
\$269	\$1,201

(Other currencies converted to NIS)

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مركز من القبول

America's sweetheart city: Hip, happening Seattle

The birthplace of grunge music, microbreweries and Windows 95 is also only a step away from some of the best sailing, hiking and skiing in the US

WHAT could be more mournful than the dirge of a ferry whistle as it caroms off the glassy towers of downtown Seattle on a day, like most days, when the low-hanging sky is the color of dirty dishwater? It's a sad, sad sound, one you won't hear anywhere else on Earth.

But it's a noise that has its consolations. For starters, it means you're in Seattle. And what could be better than that? This city clenched in the half-open claw of Puget Sound seems to have become, in recent years, the nation's sweetheart. It is the birthplace of a host of recent trends: microbrewed beers, grunge music, coffee in myriad forms, Windows 95.

And on its green-necked doorstep you'll find some of the best sailing, hiking, skiing, mountaineering, canoeing and kayaking anywhere in the country.

It's hip, it's happening and everybody wants a piece of the action. Immigrants are pouring in from all over the West, from the East and even from the Far East. So are visitors, who can't resist the chance to experience the brawny, rough-hewn allure of a city poised on the planet's newest economic and cultural frontier — the Pacific Rim.

The so-called Emerald City and its diverse neighborhoods hold sway from a series of low, rounded hills rising gently from Puget Sound. Water virtually sur-

rounds the city — there's Elliott Bay to the west, Lake Union to the north, Lake Washington to the east, the Duwamish River to the south and, of course, all the stuff that keeps falling out of the sky.

The city's harbors have been its lifeblood since Seattle's founding. They helped rocket the city to prominence when gold was discovered in Alaska, and Seattle became the chief port for outbound or returning goods and prospectors.

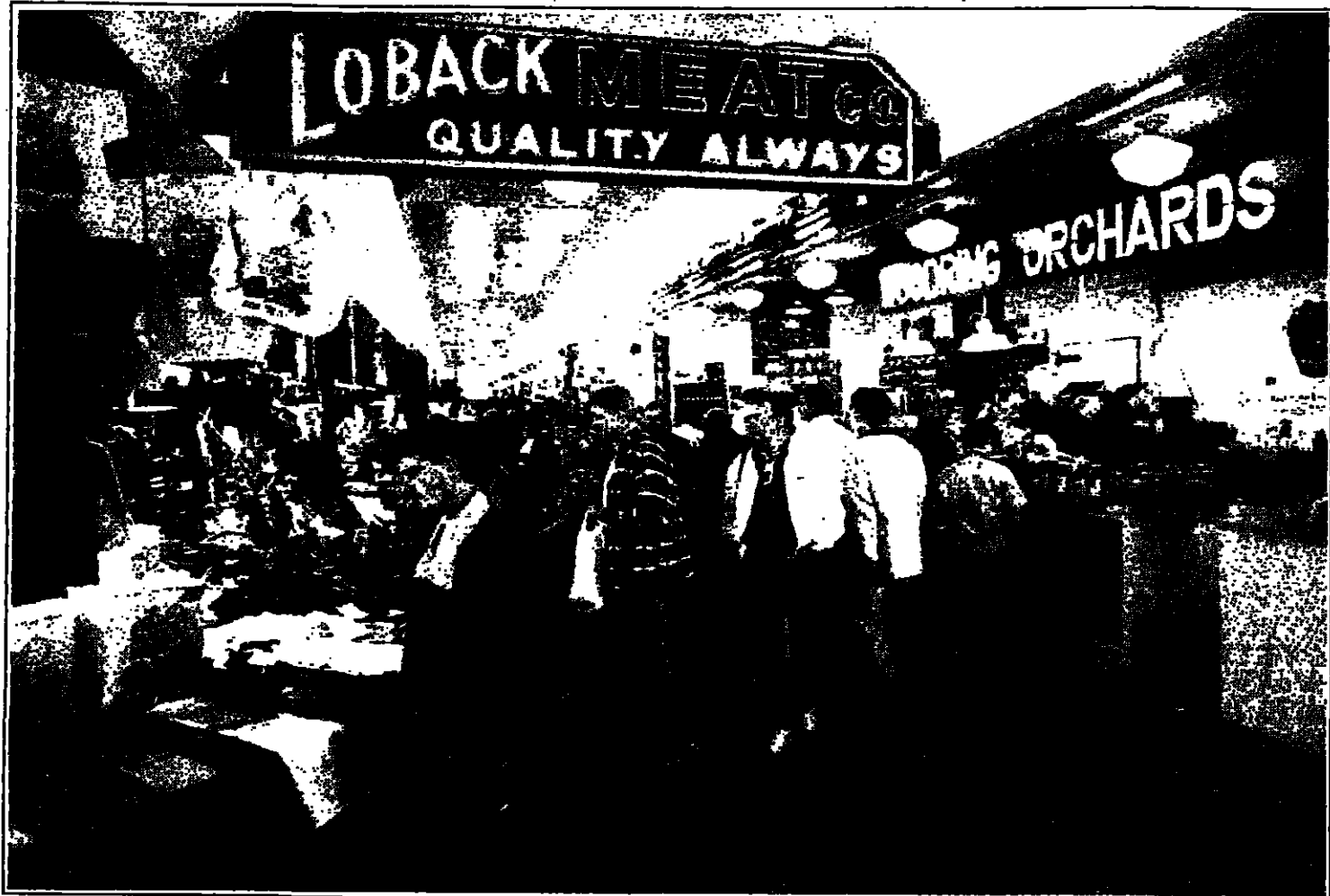
So almost any exploration of Seattle begins near the waterfront, within earshot of the city's omnipresent seagulls.

Many a visitor, in fact, never gets far from it. This is the place to hop a ferry to Bainbridge Island (a 35-minute trip that offers superlative views of the city skyline and, in good weather, a knock-your-socks-off look at Mount Rainier, the snowcapped volcano that looms over the city with all the grandeur of Olympus).

There are boats leaving for British Columbia, boats bound to the San Juan Islands, to Indian-style salmon bakes on Blake Island, and to tour the harbor area itself.

Most of the action unwinds between piers 48 and 70, where local landmarks include the Seattle Aquarium, an Omnidome theater and Ye Olde Curiosity Shop.

Farther north, along the shores of Lake Union, in a neighborhood made famous by the movie



The indoor mall at Pike Place Market is a popular Seattle attraction.

(Hartford Courant/Steve Silk)

Sleepless in Seattle, posh houseboats are moored bumper to bumper in eternal watery gridlock.

If the water proves irresistible, not far away is The Center for Wooden Boats, where you can rent a variety of watercraft. Just across the lake lies the bizarre Gas Works Park, a post-apocalyptic vision created by the rusting bulk of an old gas boiler house where gas was coaxed from

coal in order to light the city. Back near the Aquarium, you can scale the long stairway of the Pike Place Hillclimb to reach Pike Place Market, one of the most entertaining shopping centers anywhere. Much of the amusement is because of the fishmongers at Pike Place Fish, who sling whole fish, arm length and more, over the heads of customers. That's just the start of Pike

Place Market, whose nine historic acres are best explored simply by wandering through a warren of stalls selling local produce, bouquets of flowers, handcrafts, African sculpture, Whitey Ford baseball cards, collectibles, herbal concoctions, and newspapers from *Le Monde* to *The Jerusalem Post*. This is just the place to assemble ingredients for a picnic or, if you're lazy, to hit one of the many restaurants for anything

from Northwest seafood or Bolivian fare to East African cuisine and Russian blintzes. Coffee? You can't turn around without seeing signs for espressos, lattes, Americanos — you name it. Thus fortified, you might march off downhill to Pioneer Square, the heart of the city a century ago. Yesterday, one of the roads that spills into the square, was the original Skid Road (now familiarly known as

Skid Row), so named because loggers used to skid their logs down it on their way to the mill. But Pioneer Square, with its brick buildings and shady trees, is a more friendly place during the day, when tourists and locals stroll its side streets lined with quirky little shops, art galleries, intriguing restaurants, busy nightclubs and, of course, coffee bars.

For most, though, Pioneer Square is not nearly as interesting as what lies beneath it. The city's signature tour, Seattle Underground, is an offbeat guided, 90-minute walk through subterranean passageways, buried buildings and other oddities that remain from the 1889 city, which was almost completely destroyed in a fire.

The new city was built atop the old one, following a massive landfill project that left some of the old-time city streets as much as 10 meters underground.

For a more up-to-date look at Seattle, most folks wind their way to Seattle Center, 74 acres of fun for all ages. The center was built for the 1962 World's Fair, and the Jetson-esque Space Needle that rises 185 meters above this playground of museums and amusement rides affords a spectacular panorama of the city, Puget Sound and its surrounding mountains — the Olympics, and the Cascades, and, of course, Mount Rainier.

From here, you'll also get a glimpse of all the parts of Seattle you still haven't seen.

For information about Seattle, write or call the Seattle/King County Convention and Visitors Bureau, 520 Pike St., Suite 1300, Seattle, WA 98101; (206) 461-5800.

For a copy of the Washington State Activity Guide, an excellent quarterly brochure on what to do in Washington, write to the Washington State Tourism, 101 General Administration Building, Olympia, WA 98504; or call (360) 753-5600 or (800) 544-1800. (Hartford Courant)

Ice-breaker of a tour

TRAVEL TIPS
HAIM SHAPIRO

THE bar-mitzva gift to end all bar-mitzva gifts is a trip to the Arctic, organized by Geographical Tours-Neot Hakikar. The price of \$2,725 includes a cruise on an ice-breaker and excursions on dog and reindeer sleds.

ALITALIA IS offering a round-trip fare to New York of \$555, including a stopover in Rome. The Italian national airline is also offering round-trip fares to London, Paris, Frankfurt, Munich and Amsterdam, with no stopover, for \$333. Both offers are valid until the end of February.

A SEVEN-night ski package to Uludagh, Turkey, is being organized by Arkia Charter for \$649. The price includes a round-trip flight to Istanbul, transport to and from the ski resort, and hotel accommodation with full board. Another cheap ski package, in Slavonia, is being offered by Natour. Prices start at \$710 for round-trip fare to Ljubljana, transfers and seven nights with half board.

CHARTER FLIGHTS to Milan and Verona on Eurofly are to be available from Kishrei Tenfa, with the flights to Milan every Thursday, beginning on February 25, and the Verona flights every Friday, from March 1. The price of \$399 for adults, \$374 for children, is to be valid until March 25.

LUFTHANSA IS offering a round-trip ticket to Munich plus four days of unlimited rail travel in Europe over the period of a month for \$674. The price is for the company's Saturday flights to Munich. For other flights to Munich, the price is \$781, while for flights to Frankfurt it is \$883. The airline also offers special fares on train tickets to specific destinations.

DIESENHAUS IS throwing in a three-night stay in a hotel with breakfast with the flight to Prague costing \$506. The offer is only for midweek, but on weekends the company can offer a room with breakfast at the Prague Hilton Atrium for \$10 a night.

AIR INDIA, which is to begin flying to Israel on February 4, is offering a combined ticket, India a la Carte, which includes Tel Aviv-Bombay round-trip and flights to all the company's destinations in India. The price is \$975.

FOR THOSE who are already making plans for Pessah, Mano Lines is to begin its Mediterranean cruises with the holiday. Prices for the seven-day cruise, including all meals, start at \$485.

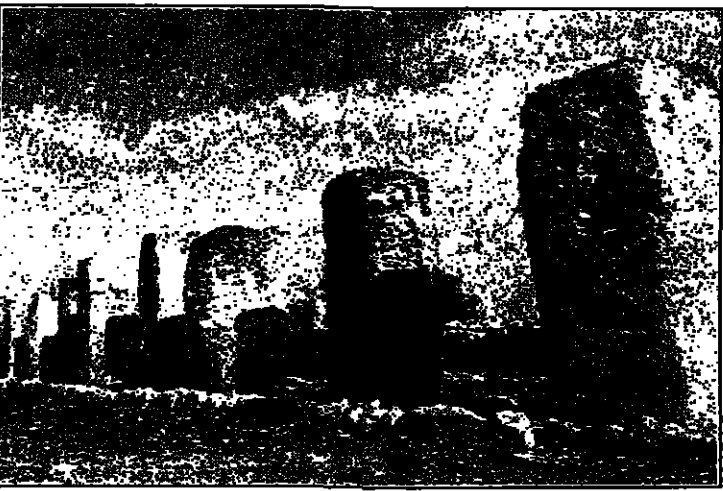
Old stones come alive at Hazor archeological museum

SEE IT HERE
HAIM SHAPIRO

WHO wants to see a pile of old stones? In fact, many of us actually do like to visit archeological excavations, but it's not always easy to conjure up an image of a flourishing civilization when you see a series of crisscrossing low stone walls. The archeologists often make it a little easier for us with a little judicious reconstruction, but that too has its limitations.

One of the problems is that most of the remains are carted off to places far away from the site itself. In Israel, the remains from an excavation are likely to be found in Jerusalem, as often as not in the cellars of the Rockefeller Museum, in the storage rooms of the Antiquities Authority.

One exception to this rule is Hazor, in upper Galilee, where there is a complete museum devoted to displaying the items found at the dig. In fact, the Ayala and Sam Zacks Hazor Museum is located just across the



Hazor contains many ancient sites including the House of Pillars at the area's national park.

road from the dig, at Kibbutz Ayelet Hashahar, the kibbutz where author James Michener stayed while gathering material for his book *The Source*. And it's no secret that the archeological site upon which the book is based is Hazor, even though the author took a few liberties in his account. Hazor was an important royal

city located on the Via Maris, the route stretching from Egypt in the south to Syria and Mesopotamia in the north. The visitor can

see the fortifications and monumental gate from the time of the Israelite monarchy, as well as the stable and grain repository.

But it is the museum that puts all this into context. According to museum director Yohanan Meir, this is the only on-site museum solely devoted to one specific dig. He strongly recommends that visitors to the site first come to the museum, which in any case is included in the price.

Even for those who are not particularly interested in Hazor's history, the museum is a prime example of elegant display techniques. Outside are some of the monumental lions and pillars which once graced the site, while the one room in which the display is located provides a sweeping view of the 21 layers from prehistoric times. The secret is in the dramatic lighting, which highlights details and provides im-

pressions which the ordinary visitor might otherwise miss.

The highlight of the display is the "holy place" where all the finds are displayed almost exactly as they were found, even though some of the heads have been reattached to the figures of the gods, although when they were found the heads had been

knocked off in what was apparently a biblical epoch of religious fervor.

The museum and site are open daily from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (5 p.m. in summer), while on Friday it is open until 3 p.m. (4 p.m. in summer). Admission for individuals is NIS 9 for adults, NIS 5 for children.

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Monday January 29 UNDERGROUND JERUSALEM
Limited to 30 persons, this tour is always sold out, so get in quick. We'll visit the City of David, the Warren Shaft, the tunnels of the Western Wall, the Herodian quarter and the first Temple model. Join a tour of the hidden city, a place where the sun never shines, the dark, mysterious underground Jerusalem.
NIS 140 (not including lunch).
Tour guide: CAROL ANN BERNHEIM

Thursday February 22 MARESHA & BEIT GOVRIN
Maresha was one of the world's most important trading cities of the ancient world. And every year, more and more of this most important site is revealed. We'll visit the huge complex - settlements, markets, fortresses, hidden caves and escape paths, and the newly discovered Greek tower. And then, Beit Govrin with its Roman amphitheater and remodeled Crusader fortress. The tour involves many stairs.
NIS 160 (including full lunch).
Tour guide: Archaeologist AVNER GOREN

The tour price includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and return, entrance to all sites, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations. Pickup and return, drop-off along the route when possible and arranged beforehand.

Reservations and further information:
SHORASHIM, POB 7588, 14 Rehov Abarbanel, Rehavia, Jerusalem, 91074.
Tel. 02-666231 (9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.)
Ask for Romit or Tami.

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EILAT AND THE NEGEV

Sold out in October, we're organizing another popular tour to the south. So get in now, for a really great time at a bargain price. Shorashim and The Jerusalem Post Travel Club's stimulating and informative English speaking off-the-beaten-track 4 day tour of the Negev and Eilat. We'll pick you up in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem, and on the way south visit the Air Force Museum at Hatzorim, and Machtesh Ramon (the Ramon Crater). We'll tour the Shoret Canyon, cruise the coral reefs in a glass-bottomed boat, and view Aqaba and Taba, take a jeep tour, yes, a jeep tour of Mt. Yo'ash, Ein Netafim, Nahal Shlomo, Nahal Yehoshafat and Nahal Rehav'am. There'll be two evening lectures and a night tour of Eilat. We'll be staying at the delightful PARADISE HOTELS in Eilat and our tour guide will be David Solomon.

The Dates: Mon., February 26-Thur., February 29 4 days, 3 nights.

The Price: NIS 1045, per person in a double room, half board, air conditioned bus from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and return, escorts and guides, entrance to all sites, lectures, jeep tour, etc.

Shorashim: POB 7588, 14 Rehov Abarbanel, Rehavia, Jerusalem 91074.
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9:30 a.m. till 2:00 p.m.
(ask for Romit or Tami)

An Australian who's who: Dancing on the grapes Down under over here

Imagine a Hashomer Hatzair educator introducing Yiddish to Israeli high-school students. Dov Golembowicz, 64, an Australian who came here in 1955, did just that, in 1981.

Ask Australian Ambassador Peter Rogers to list 10 local denizens from down under who made a vital or unusual contribution to life here and he will

This resourceful group of immigrants has made its mark on various aspects of society, writes Greer Fay Cashman

Isaac (Pixie) Ernest, 66, educator, immigrated in 1952. The founding headmaster of year after moving here, and was for many years the director of public relations. He is currently

projects which bring unaffiliated youth and adults here for periods of study and service. Through the AZF, Mittelberg has also put the wheels in motion for an Australian network to assist newcomers and help Australian immigrants meet each other.

Stella Saper, 62, artist and weaver, immigrated in 1973. The Foreign Ministry's division



Gary Leibler: Maven of electronic Judaica.

shake his head. His homework, when boning up on Israel prior to his arrival here two years ago, did not include learning who's who among the nearly 8,000 expatriates.

"Australians here don't do anything to promote themselves as such," he says.

Australians tend to mainstream into the population.

They list Martin Indyk, the US ambassador, as their most prominent compatriot here. Regardless of his present affiliations, Australians continue to regard him as one of their own. His citizenship may have changed, but his accent hasn't.

The real veterans will cite the pioneers of Kibbutz Kfar Hanassi, once known as the Australian kibbutz, while more recent arrivals nominate dynamic doctors, lawyers and business people to the who's-who list.

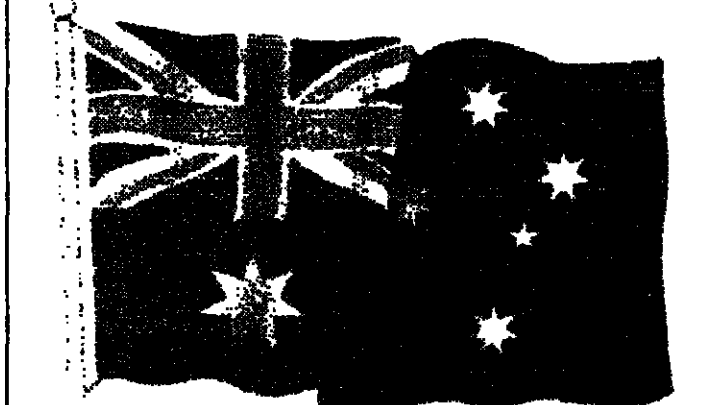
Why should the subject come up at all?

Today is Australia Day, the 226th anniversary of the discovery of the Island Continent by British explorer James Cook.

Aside from diplomatic and trade relations, there are historic links between Israel and Australia. There were Australian soldiers here during World Wars I and II, and Australia was the first country to say "yes" in the United Nations vote on the partition of Palestine.

Some of the resident Australians who stand out in the crowd include:

Jack Beris, 59, civil engineer, immigrated in 1961. He was the site manager for Kiryat Wolfson, one of the most daring and exciting residential projects in the capital. He specialized in water engineering, but couldn't find a job in his field. "I was going to make the desert bloom, but instead I built Jerusalem," he says.



Dr. Louise Fisher specializes in skin cancer awareness.

Australia's Bialik College, set up by the Australian Zionist Federation, Ernest was the Education Ministry's inspector for English in southern and then in Jerusalem schools.

Dr. Louise Fisher, 41, general practitioner and Ma'aleh Adumim council member, immigrated in 1980 with her husband Jeffrey, who is a cardiac anesthesiologist at Shaare Zedek Hospital.

Fisher, who holds the health portfolio, works to increase health awareness, especially regarding skin cancer. She is also involved with education and charitable work and helped open two neighborhood kindergartens.

Irene Gruber, 49, is the assistant to the general manager Bank Mizrahi. Gruber, who immigrated in 1970, is the only woman in Bank Mizrahi to hold such a high-ranking position. Her duties include international activities and giving legal advice to the bank's foreign division.

Eliahu Honig, 65, is the associate vice president of the Hebrew University. He joined the university's staff in 1956, a

working on new projects with American philanthropist Sam Rothberg. Honig, a tennis player, first came to Israel in 1950 as Australia's one-man team in the Maccabiah Games.

Baron Katranski, 28, executive director of the Israel Australia Chamber of Commerce, immigrated in October 1994, after serving in the same capacity for three years in the Victorian branch of the Australia Israel Chamber of Commerce.

Although the Chamber's purpose is to promote bilateral trade, Katranski says, "we also see ourselves as ambassadors for Australia, promoting tourism and culture."

Gary Leibler, 30, a lawyer turned entrepreneur, immigrated in 1990. His current venture is Multimedia Judaica, which aims to have the largest electronic Judaica stable in the world. He plans to transfer the Encyclopedia Judaica to CD-Rom.

David Mittelberg, 48, a sociology lecturer at the Kibbutz Movement's Oraniam School of Education, immigrated in 1972. He was instrumental in several



Jack Beris helped make Jerusalem bloom.

for International Cooperation selected her twice to teach weaving techniques to people in Third World countries.

Chana Sheink, 58, is a native-born Israeli who returned in 1990 after 36 years in Australia. A volunteer guide at the Israel Museum, Sheink loves explaining the country's ancient history and traditions to visitors.

She also heads Keren Klita's operations in Jerusalem's Gilo area and has helped many Russian immigrants.

She and her husband Jonathan, who works in the legal department of the Communications Ministry, regularly entertain resident and visiting Australians in their home, which has become an unofficial reception center.

Ted Silverman, 51, airline executive, immigrated in 1967, and stresses that he came "before the Six Day War." Silverman was the local CEO for TWA and now heads KLM operations.

Garry Stock, 52, investment consultant and broker. Stock, who immigrated in 1994, has a growing portfolio of overseas investors, mainly Australians, whom he advises about investing in local enterprises similar to those they run abroad.

Raoul Rapke, 35, lawyer, immigrated in 1990. Two years ago he became the legal adviser to Iscar, the major company in the Wertheimer group.

Motti (Max) Rosenfield, 68, immigrated in 1948 to fight in the War of Independence. He served in the Golan Heights during the Yom Kippur War, and now lives on Kibbutz Elrom, where he supervises the volunteers and subtitles films in Elrom's production and translation company.

GRAPEVINE GREER FAY CASHMAN

THEY WERE celebrating in the Golan this week, and it had nothing to do with the peace negotiations between Israel and Syria. The toasts were to the Golan Wineries whose wines won in four out of the six categories of wine to be served at the \$600-a-plate royal banquet which some of the world's leading chefs will prepare in Jerusalem on March 18. Professional wine tasters David Pepercorn, Serena Sutcliffe and Philippe Bourguignon came to Israel for a special "blind" tasting, and were given no prior information about the source of any of the wines presented. The results of their adjudication cannot, therefore, be interpreted as some kind of consolation prize to Golan Heights winemakers who may have to find other vineyards in the wake of an Israeli withdrawal. The menu for the banquet is being coordinated by Shalom Kadosh, executive chef at the Sheraton Jerusalem Plaza and himself an international prize winner, although at the dinner both the cuisine and its creators will be non-Israeli.

NOT ALLOWING himself much time to recover from his prime minister's official visit here, Dutch Ambassador Christiaan Kroner and his wife Harriet last Saturday night hosted 100 guests at a Misgav Ladach benefit concert and \$250-a-plate dinner. The entire donation went to the hospital, while the Kroners themselves shouldered all the costs of the kosher, catered affair at their Herzliya Pithuh home.

Internationally acclaimed mezzo-soprano Mitsuko Shirai and her pianist husband Hartmut Hoell captivated those present with a wide-ranging lieder program. Shirai heads the Friends of Misgav Ladach in Germany. Hotelier and president of the World Trade Center in Vienna Georg Katerz and his wife Edith specially came to Israel for the occasion. Others attending included fellow hoteliers Ami Federman of the Dan chain and Dave Taig, owner of the Tel Aviv Hilton, shipping tycoon and philanthropist Yuli Ofer and his wife Ruth, David Shalom, Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra musical director, and of course, Misgav Ladach medical director Dr. Michael Stark.

THE WARMTH at the home of recently arrived British ambassador David Manning was attributable not only to the degree of hospitality which he and his wife Katherine extended to members of Menupa to mark the conclusion of their road safety seminar, but also to the log fire burning in the grate. The Mannings' previous posting was in Moscow where winter temperatures were sub-zero, and they still haven't got the need for a fire out of their systems. Expressing the embassy's pleasure at being associated with Metuna, the ambassador offered to help the organization in any way possible in the future. To which Metuna executive member Zeldia Harris retorted: "That's very brave. The ambassador doesn't know what he's letting himself in for."



Dutch Ambassador Christian Kroner and mezzo-soprano Mitsuko Shirai sample their \$250-a-plate dinner. (Brita Stark)



Professional wine-taster Serena Sutcliffe puts Israeli wine to the test. (Yitzhak Harari)

tion, had a literary one. Judy Cooper Weil is waiting for the release of her book about the people of Neveh Tzedek, while Naomi Bensur currently has two books in the works: one on interpersonal relations and another on communications and image projection.

"WIZO'S LOSS is Tel Aviv University's gain," TAU President Yoram Dinstein said at World WIZO's salute to its outgoing President Raya Jaglom. Dinstein was one of no fewer than 16 dignitaries who paid tribute to Jaglom's leadership role on behalf of numerous causes and institutions, which in addition to WIZO include the Weizmann Institute, the Tel Aviv Museum, the Israel Museum, the World Jewish Congress, the Hebrew University, Tel Aviv University and others. Jaglom, who has given 55 years of service to WIZO, will not leave the organization of which she is now honorary president; but in future will devote her considerable fundraising abilities to TAU.

SOCIAL AFFAIRS Minister Ora Namir, who came not as a government minister "but as a personal friend of Raya Jaglom," observed that although Jaglom might present a tough exterior, there was also another side to her - one that could be moved by the sight of a suffering child or an old person. "That's something you rarely see in men. Lady Sieff, whose late mother-in-law, Rebecca Sieff, was one of the founders of WIZO, noted that Jaglom, who had involved her in WIZO, was in a sense responsible for her meeting and marrying Marcus Sieff (now Lord Sieff). Former Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kolek said of Jaglom, "She gave me several promises - and each time she gave me double." WJC President Edgar Bronfman, recalling his first meeting with Jaglom in 1981, said that at the time he had "the hutzpa to think I could be president of the World Jewish Congress. He'd tested that hutzpa on all sorts of people, he said, and Jaglom had backed him by telling the members "here you have a wealthy young man who wants to do it - so let him." And they did. This week they also reelected Jaglom as vice president of the WJC.

TURNING THE other cheek, Baruch Gordon, who is in charge of the Arutz 7 Internet service, also does some guiding and lecturing for groups and individuals whom he first meets via the net. Amongst the most recent was a group of college students from a Lutheran university in Minnesota. Taking them through Judea and Samaria, and using quotations from the Bible to prove his point, Gordon told them that they were actually in the center of the country, to which one of the girls in the group responded: "Then why don't you keep this and give the Palestinians the Coastal Plain?"

BIRTHDAY PARTIES are becoming par for the course in the Prime Minister's Office. After celebrating the birthdays first of former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir, then Foreign Ministry director general Uri Savir, Prime Minister Shimon Peres last week succeeded in surprising his media adviser Aliza Goren, whom he led into another office where staffers had prepared a party for her birthday. And believe it or not, he still has time to attend to affairs of state.

At least half of those attending had served from 1980 to 1983 with Israel's first diplomatic mission to Egypt. The hostess was the ambassador's wife, while the guest of honor was the wife of the political adviser. Also present were Omgil Netanel whose husband had been commercial attache, Billi Lantado, whose husband was the press officer, Zvia Shimon who had been the ambassador's secretary, Sarah Dubek, whose husband succeeded Ed-Elissar, and Nira Zohar, whose husband recently completed his tour of duty as consul in Alexandria. Others present, who didn't have an Egyptian connec-

tion, had a literary one. Judy Cooper Weil is waiting for the release of her book about the people of Neveh Tzedek, while Naomi Bensur currently has two books in the works: one on interpersonal relations and another on communications and image projection.

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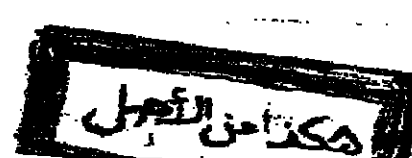
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 1996

Electric shame

ON THE AGENDA
AMOTZ ASA-EL

IT'S been more than 70 years since former Russian revolutionary Pinhas Rutenberg electrified the Jordan basin and excited the Yishuv by establishing the Palestine Electric Company. Fortunately, since this pioneering accomplishment, local power production has shot up nearly immeasurably. Unfortunately, Rutenberg's heirs at the Israel Electric Corporation have yet to undergo the capitalist metamorphosis which highlighted their spiritual father's career. Worse yet - as has been so blatantly manifested this week - they have the government in their pocket.

A more disinterested government would have emerged from this week with a post-socialist gospel.

With IEC's 50-year-old franchise about to expire, and with privatization sweeping dozens of sectors in scores of countries, one might have expected Israel to seize the moment and bring to the marketplace sizable chunks of its largest commercial employer.

At a time when the private sector engages in healthy competition over anything from our telephone usage to the construction of the highways we drive upon, it should go without saying that engineering companies ought to be allowed to compete over the electrification of a newly built town, or the power supply to a cluster of industrial plants.

Instead - bowing to pressure from IEC's infamously aggressive union - the government did the very opposite: It renewed for another decade IEC's monopoly on power generation, transmission, and distribution.

True, the bill approved by the cabinet allows for privately owned plants to produce power to a combined 20 percent of IEC's capacity. Yet considering

that only half of this already modest portion would be located in Israel - the rest is will hopefully be situated in neighboring countries - and bearing in mind that the new stations will be compelled to sell their output to IEC, which will remain the consumers' only provider, one sadly detects here the cumbersome centralism which has plagued this economy since its inception.

Some of the 16 hands raised in favor of the bill presented by Energy Minister Gonen Segev this week belonged to ideologues, particularly Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban, an honest socialist with no ulterior motives. Another hand, Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni's, went courageously against the ministerial grain.

The rest - except Environment Minister Yossi Sarid who abstained - sheepishly followed Shimon Peres's lead into the old Middle East's painfully familiar, cynical, and wasteful public sectors.

Labor's ministers will deny this, but their vote reflected fear of a self-centered union's sway over them on the eve of party primaries on the one hand, and a scorn for the national interest on the other. The public, they apparently told themselves, does not follow this kind of news. They are wrong.

Middle-income Israelis know how to read their electric bills and juxtapose them with senior IEC executives' salaries, which - in violation of the Treasury's instructions - surpass \$11,000 a month.

With 13,000 employees who get electricity for free, IEC is glaringly overstuffed, financially cushioned, and politically powerful. Even so, it is still far smaller, and weaker, than this country's entire middle class - Labor's real electoral backbone.

Federman increases stake in Elite Industries to 40%

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

ELITE Industries chairman and general manager David Federman has purchased the British Man company's 24 percent stake in Elite for about \$44 million, after having outbid the Bino-Liberman consortium which also competed for the shares, the company informed the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange yesterday.

The market expressed a lack of confidence in the new controlling shareholder, with Elite's shares plunging about seven percent yesterday.

"The share went up about 30% in the last few days on expectations that [Zadik] Bino would gain ownership," one broker said. "People are selling for two reasons - profit-taking and because nothing has changed in the company. Federman will continue to manage Elite just as he did in the past."

Federman told Israel Radio that he is very satisfied with the purchase. The transaction was financed by one of the large Israeli banks with which Federman has a financing contract. The Federman group consists of David Federman, his brother and father.

"After 10 years in Elite I had to reach an agreement in principle on whether I want to continue or not," Federman said. "After considering this for a long time and looking into a number of alternatives, I decided there is still a lot to do and decided to take this route."

According to the agreement, the Federman group has purchased 24% of the controlling shares and another 12% of the stock capital, for about 50 percent more than the market price Wednesday. As a result, the Federman group has increased its stake in the company from 16% to about 40%.

"I don't think the market price is the relevant issue," Federman said. "You can count the number of companies the size of Elite in Israel on one hand. In my opinion Elite is currently traded below its real value. It is true the company is not going through an easy period but I usually try to look a few years ahead and I am confident that it was the right move, and the right price."

According to Federman, there are several other companies, both here and abroad, that have also expressed an interest in a strategic partnership agreement. He said the company plans to join up with one or two strategic partners that will be able to contribute to Elite's development.

"We have several alternatives," he said. "Clal has expressed interest and after looking into the possibility, we told them that if and when we win, we will be happy to talk to them. We regard Clal as a very interesting company. We will have to listen to exactly what they think and what is being discussed."

The chairman denied rumors that Clal intends to appoint a new managing director for Elite, adding that he does not plan to step down from the position.

Ze'ev Holtzman, president of Giza, an investment advisory firm, said Man's sale of Elite's shares demonstrates that the stock exchange is a good medium for ownership changes.

"The transaction shows that, theoretically, if the government would release more shares on the exchange, we would see the emergence of controlling shareholders through the bourse, like in the case of Bezek and Cable and Wireless. The exchange can be an important medium for changes in ownership, privatization and takeovers, just like in other parts of the world."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

TASE chairman resigns: Haim Stoessel, chairman of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, announced yesterday that he was resigning as of February 1. His temporary replacement will be Avi Filosof, son-in-law of Yitzhak Rabin. *Bloomberg*

White House hopes to keep government open: The White House said yesterday that it hoped President Clinton and the Republican-led Congress could come to an agreement soon to avert a third partial government shutdown.

"We hope, certainly, that either later today or tomorrow we'll be able to come to an agreement with the Congress on a measure that would extend funding so we don't face any prospect of a government shutdown Saturday," White House spokesman Mike McCurry told reporters.

McCurry said the White House had received from the House a draft of a continuing resolution designed to avoid a shutdown.

Italian firm considers Dead Sea investments

RACHEL NEIMAN

ITALIAN state-owned holding company IRI is considering a \$20 million investment in the Dead Sea area. Under discussion are the possible establishment of a hotel or spa, and distribution rights for Ahava products in Italy.

IRI is Italy's largest holding company, employing some 330,000, with an average annual turnover of some \$50 billion. Ahava is the brand name of a line of mud- and mineral-based cosmetics and related products, developed and manufactured by Dead Sea Laboratories. The Dead Sea Works of the ICL group owns 18% of Dead Sea Laboratories. The remainder is owned by area kibbutzim. IRI vice president Roberto

Tama arrives today for a three-day visit, accompanied by a group including both medical and business experts.

Also in the delegation are Dr. Alberto Calibretti, deputy health minister of Lombardy, members of the Lombardy provincial government's health council, and managers of the San Rocco clinic, which specializes in spa treatments.

The delegation will also discuss a possible changeover in the San Rocco spa treatments, to those developed by Dead Sea Laboratories under the Ahava name. San Rocco would also possibly become the headquarters and distribution center for Ahava products in Italy.

Russia stabilizes oil decline, passes energy program for 1996-2000

MOSCOW (Reuter) - Russia finally began reversing steep oil output declines in 1995, but will not return to the golden years of the late 1980s until the next millennium, a deputy fuel and energy minister said yesterday.

First Deputy Fuel and Energy Minister Alexander Yevtusenko also told a news conference that the government had approved a \$148.1 billion "Fuel and Energy 1996-2000" program to develop the sector.

"Output stabilized last year and will continue to do so at those levels until 2000," he said,

without giving figures.

But he also said the ministry had some questions over the status of state-owned shares in oil companies, which Russian financial institutions are temporarily managing in trust under recent, controversial shares-for-loans auctions.

"The questions require not clear reversals or revolutionary changes [in the outcome of the auctions], but rather some examination," he said. "Formerly, we owned these shares. Now it is unclear who owns them, while they are temporarily in the hands of the banks."

State Statistics Committee figures have put Russia's total output of crude oil and gas con-

densate in 1995 at 307 million tons, which it calls a three percent drop on 1994.

Fuel and Energy Ministry figures say last year's output slipped 11.7 million tons on 1994 to 282.8 million tons, but do not include joint venture production.

Yevtusenko said the government's five-year program comprises 28 key projects, which he did not specify, with financing to come from federal and regional budgets, post-tax profits of individual companies, domestic and international loans and credits, and amortization.

Cash would also come from the sale of 15 million tons of crude oil over an unspecified period. Yevtusenko did not say whether this oil had already been factored into upcoming export schedules.

"This is probably [Russia's] most expensive program," he said. "No other program, like housing, can compare. From the oil and gas sectors, we are counting on serious financial possibilities from firms' post-tax profits. But we are worried about how to finance the most indispensable projects."

Yevtusenko said the government would establish a "special fund" to finance investments in the electricity sector and look at ways in which utilities serving the Krasnoyarsk and Irkutsk aluminum-smelting regions could send some electricity to the Far East and southern Urals.

Madge Networks loses \$33.6m. in 4th quarter

RACHEL NEIMAN

MADGE Networks yesterday announced a fourth quarter net loss of \$33.6 million. In the same period in 1994, it logged a net profit of \$8m. Quarterly revenues were \$118.3 million, up from \$84.2m.

The loss included a pre-tax charge of \$39.1m. and \$8.3m. in taxes related to the merger between Madge and Lannet.

Excluding these expenses, Madge pointed out, fourth quarter operating income had increased to \$17.6m. from \$11m. and net income was \$13.8m.

Annual net income was \$605,000, down from \$29.35m. in 1994. Annual revenues were \$401.96m., up from \$283.5m. Earnings per share fell to \$0.01 from \$0.74.

"The year ended with a

flourish," CEO Robert Madge said, with the completion of the Lannet acquisition (now integrated as Madge's Enterprise Systems Division). "I am extremely pleased with the early momentum we already see coming through in this product line."

"1995 was an important strategic year. We made great strides toward our long-term goal of becoming the number one leader in end-to-end switched networking."

Madge is now the fifth largest local area networking company, Madge said "and with 20% of fourth quarter revenues coming from our switching products the company is well on our way to achieving our longer term goal."

Salomon Bros. to finance Elbit split

RACHEL NEIMAN

ELBIT has selected the Salomon Brothers investment bank to advise and finance its three-way split.

In December, Elbit announced it would turn its three areas of activity, military systems, health equipment, and civilian products, into separately run public companies.

The choice of a financial advisor, Elbit president Emmanuel Gil said yesterday, was "a step of central importance to the

company's development process."

Elbit is still considering the plan, whose goal is to maximize each division's potential by focusing business and allying the separate companies with strategic partners.

The split is being examined by Elbit in terms of its business and legal ramifications and is still awaiting approval by the securities authorities in the US and Israel.

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Real Estate & Investments in Israel 1996

Just before Pessach, The Jerusalem Post will publish special supplements, devoted to real estate and investments in Israel.

The supplements will be published in the International Editions of March 4, 11 and 18 and in the daily paper on April 5.

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ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (25.1.96)

Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$50,000)	4.25	4.50	4.50
U.S. dollar (\$100,000)	4.25	4.25	4.25
German mark (DM 200,000)	2.00	1.875	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.375	0.375	0.500
Yen (10 million yen)			

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (25.1.96)

Currency dealer	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rate
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.4573	3.5538	3.05	3.20	3.1350
German mark	3.1060	3.1561	2.98	3.11	2.1241
French franc	4.7094	4.7524	4.82	4.85	4.7583
Japanese yen (100)	0.6123	0.6222	0.50	0.54	0.6186
Dutch guilder	2.9667	2.9336	2.85	3.00	2.9554
Swiss franc	1.8792	1.8085	1.84	1.94	1.8864
Swedish krona	2.6154	2.5387	2.57	2.70	2.6427
Norwegian krone	0.4522	0.4588	0.41	0.47	0.4527
Denmark krone	0.4796	0.4874	0.47	0.50	0.4844
Portuguese escudo	0.5432	0.5520	0.53	0.56	0.5488
Spanish peseta	0.6836	0.6947	0.57	0.71	0.6904
Australian dollar	2.2608	2.2972	2.22	2.33	2.2557
Canadian dollar	2.2894	2.3193	2.24	2.36	2.2856
S. African rand	0.8517	0.8885	0.77	0.87	0.8587
Belgian franc (10)	1.0217	1.0382	1.00	1.06	1.0229
Austrian schilling (10)	2.9886	3.0369	2.93	3.08	3.0205
Italian lira (1000)	1.0217	1.0382	1.00	1.06	1.0229
Irish pound	1.5532	1.5848	1.51	1.58	1.5651
Egyptian pound			0.86	0.95	0.9248
ECU	3.8568	3.9191			3.8925
Irish punt	4.3764	4.5551	4.79	5.03	4.9314
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4529	2.5332	2.45	2.57	2.5163

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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New York market indexes
Last Change
DJ Industrials 8213.99 -27.45
DJ Transport 1912.58 -17.81

Other stock market indexes
Last Change
FTSE 100 2914.5 -26.7
Nikkei 225 11101.8 +11.8

Israeli stocks in NY
Last Change
AYE/AMXK
Amey 41.75 +0.25
Amey A 41.75 +0.25

Dollar crossrates (US)
Last Change
Pound spot 1.5265 -0.0002
Pound 3 months 1.5265 -0.0002

Labor rates
Last Change
Dollor 3 months 8.5 +0.00
Dollor 6 months 8.5 +0.00

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.
Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds

INFLATION COMMODITIES AND METALS
Last Change
Cocoa (Mar) (ICE) 1192 +0.25
Coffee (Mar) (ICE) 117.20 +0.25

US commodities
Last Change
Cocoa (Mar) (ICE) 1192 +0.25
Coffee (Mar) (ICE) 117.20 +0.25

London commodities
Last Change
Cocoa (Mar) (ICE) 1192 +0.25
Coffee (Mar) (ICE) 117.20 +0.25

Spot market rates (US)
Last Change
Gold spot 408.8 +0.2
Silver spot 5.67 +0.07

New York metal futures
Last Change
Gold (Mar) 408.7 +0.2
Silver (Mar) 5.67 +0.07

London metal futures
Last Change
Gold (Mar) 408.7 +0.2
Silver (Mar) 5.67 +0.07

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Table with columns: Name, Price, % Change, Volume, % Volume. Sub-sections include Multi-sided trading, Two-sided trading, Commercial Banks, Industrials, Mortgage Banks & Finance, Financial Institutions, Insurance, Trade & Services, Investment Companies, Oil Exploration, and Parallel Lists.

SOURCE: ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

Stock indexes rise, tracking gains on Wall Street

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL

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Two-Sided Index Maof Index

THE TASE rose for the week, tracking gains in the stocks on Wall Street. Gains yesterday by Teva and Koor Industries offset losses in Elite Industries and Bezeq.

On Wednesday, US stocks soared on unexpectedly strong earnings. The Dow Jones Industrial Average reached a record.

Another reason behind increasing share prices early in the week was that the Maof options investors had pegged the index at 220, said Rosenberg. Maof options expired yesterday.

Investors will be watching the Bank of Israel in the week ahead, said Rosenberg. The central bank is due to announce on Monday whether it will change interest rates.

With money supply figures rising this month, the bank is not expected to announce a change in rates, Rosenberg said.

"Rates are not going to go down," he said. "There was talk that they'll go up, but I think they're likely to stay where they are."

An increase in rates "would have a negative impact on the market," he said, adding that investors have already taken into account the likelihood there won't be a change. (Bloomberg)

Tokyo up, London down in reaction New York

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - Here is how major stock markets outside the United States ended yesterday.

LONDON - A lower Wall Street reinforced a weaker trend in leading UK shares yesterday after Wednesday's rise to a new high. Dealers said consideration on the need for a period of consolidation together with indications that market-makers were short of stock also contributed to the downward trend.

FRANKFURT - Germany's DAX share index sprang to a record high yesterday as blue chip shares surged on continued rate cut hopes, a firm dollar and stable German debt prices. The DAX ended at 2,443.72 points, up 20.65 points, a record close but just off a session high of 2,448.84 points.

PARIS - French shares closed slightly higher but well below their day's highs due to disappointment that the Bank of France kept its intervention rate unchanged. Although other central banks have cut rates, the Bank of France is facing temporary relative franc weakness on fears of further labor unrest. The CAC-40 index closed at 4,221.19, up 19.50 points.

SYDNEY - The Australian share market closed higher as strong leads from offshore boosted investor interest and options expiries boosted turnover. The All Ordinaries index closed 18.25 points higher at 2,253.9.

Dow down 26.01 in heavy bonds sell-off

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - Strong earnings reports helped the stock market withstand a powerful sell-off in bonds yesterday, but stock investors still took profits in previous high-flyers, leaving stock indexes down for the day.

A strong wave of program selling deepened the losses. On Wall Street, the Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks was down 26.01 points to close at 5,216.83 after showing modest losses for most of the day.

Stock-market participants were cheered by the fact that stocks did not lose any more ground in the face of a sharp sell-off in bonds.

"It seems there have been enough positive earnings reports to give the market a positive tone," said Greg Nie, a technician analyst at Everen Securities in Chicago.

Stock investors were taking profits after Wednesday's run-up, when the Dow average rose 50.7 to a record high of 5,242.84.

"Looking at the soggy economy, the mixed profits picture and the uncertainty in the fixed-income markets, it's really hard to build a strong case for share prices to go on their merry own way to sharply higher highs," said James Solloway, research director at Argus Research.

The Nasdaq composite index fell 7.34 to 1,036.12.

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Table with columns: Name, Price, % Change, Name, Price, % Change, Name, Price, % Change, Name, Price, % Change. Lists various international stocks from New York, London, and Paris.

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Jerusalem

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OC Manpower: 20% of recruits fail to complete their service

TWENTY percent of all IDF recruits fail to complete the full term of mandatory service, outgoing OC Manpower Branch Maj.-Gen. Yisrael Einhorn said yesterday.

This is double the rate of five years ago and triple the rate of 10 years ago.

Einhorn said thousands of soldiers are redundant within their units, a problem which is constantly worsening.

Einhorn said plans to cut com-

pulsory IDF service had been "put in the bottom of the drawer," despite having been approved by prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

He told reporters the plans had been frozen to prevent causing a shock to the entire military system. He called for their immediate implementation, particularly a drastic cut in military service for male soldiers.

Einhorn said the IDF is obliged to accept all those who want to serve, leading to problems of unsuitable and unusable soldiers, who are later discharged early, many after serving prison sentences. Many of the 20 percent that fail to complete their service should never have been drafted, he said.

He said the problem of hidden redundancy is far worse among

female soldiers than male ones.

The only recommendation which has been partially put into effect is to cut reserve duty and use soldiers on compulsory service instead.

Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman Haggai Merom (Labor) said he supports cutting the length of compulsory service to make the IDF more efficient, while preserving its role as a social equalizer, even in a time of peace.

LIAT COLLINS

Woman reveals pictures of sick Yemenite babies she treated in 1950s

A WOMAN who worked as a nurse in Haifa's Rambam Hospital during the 1950s, showed photographs on Channel 1's *Mabat* news last night that she said were of malnourished and ill Yemenite babies she had treated in the state's early years.

She said that many of the babies were so ill they did not survive, despite the devoted treatment they received at Rambam.

"They arrived in a very bad state, dehydrated and empty-looking, and it was very hard to save them," she said.

"We treated them with care and devotion, and some of them we saved, but we could not save all of them."

The woman refused to reveal her name, saying she feared the supporters of Uzi Meshulam.

"I decided to reveal this because of the situation we are in now, that is likely to bring a split in the nation and lots of anger. With this step I hope to contribute to social unity with the Ye-

menite community," she said.

She said she would submit her pictures and other evidence to the committee of inquiry investigating the fate of Yemenite children who went missing during the state's early years.

Aviad Levy, chairman of the Mishkan Ohalim association, a Yemenite group, insisted the woman had nothing to fear from the Yemenite community. He added, however, that he did not believe her revelations shed any new light on the fate of the missing children.

"We have other shocking testimony" that contradicts her version, Levy said.

Channel 2 reported that Mishkan Ohalim officials had also said the babies in the pictures could not be Yemenite babies, "because Yemenite children were breastfed until age two, and their weight was generally average, while the children in the picture look scrawny and malnourished."

Peres orders probe of Liaison Bureau

BATSHEVA TSUR

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres has asked his ministry's legal adviser, Ahaz Ben-Ari, to look into the activities of the Liaison Bureau, the once-clandestine office of the government which operated behind the Iron Curtain and today is legally active in the CIS.

Meanwhile, two former prisoners of Zion, who represent the CIS olim on the Jewish Agency's Board of Governors, have asked board chairman Charles (Corky) Goodman to convene the agen-

cy's executive to discuss remarks by Chairman Avraham Burg.

In a letter to Goodman, Natan Sharansky and Eduard Kuznetsov write that Burg has described the bureau "as an obsolete entity and vociferously [advocated] its immediate closure."

Sharansky and Kuznetsov warn that, if this were to happen and "in case of a resurgence of reactionary powers in the CIS, we would not have a channel for aliya."

Three hurt in accident - car in wrong lane

A husband and wife from Yavne were very seriously injured and the driver of a second car moderately injured in a head-on collision between two vehicles on the Ashdod-Tel Aviv road last night.

Police said the driver of the second car had for some reason

been driving in the couple's lane in the wrong direction.

The husband and wife were taken to Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer; the second driver was taken to Assaf Harofeh Hospital in Tzrifin.

Jewish media conference begins tomorrow night

SOME 150 Jewish journalists from 30 countries are attending the Sixth International Conference of the Jewish Media, which opens tomorrow night in Jerusalem. During the five-day-long event, participants will meet with

Prime Minister Shimon Peres, Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu and Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau. The conference is being organized by the World Zionist Organization's information department.

ABU ZAYYAD

(Continued from Page 1) was "to clarify the positions of the two sides."

He declined to say which ministers were involved.

Aliza Goren, spokeswoman for Prime Minister Shimon Peres, would not confirm or deny Abu Zayyad's claims.

"There are no negotiations under way on Jerusalem," Goren said, but added, "If the claims [by Abu Zayyad] are correct, that there are meetings of one kind or another, they are not being conducted with the knowledge or approval of the prime minister."

There have been several reports in recent weeks of meetings concerning Jerusalem being held by Israeli and Palestinian academics, that are being conducted with the government's approval and, at times, coordination. Abu Zayyad said he had participated in these informal meetings, and that he believed both the Pales-

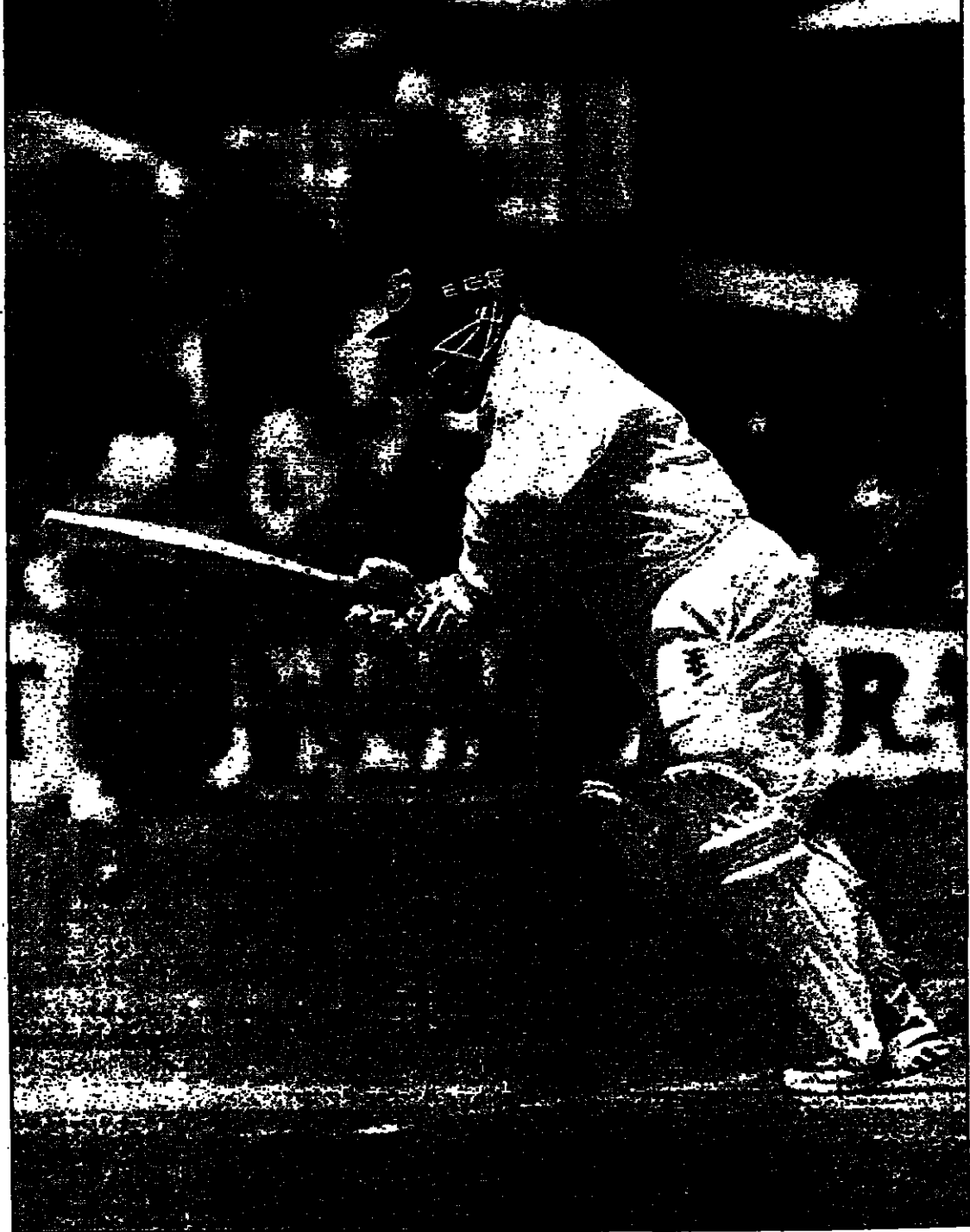
tinian and Israeli participants were acting with the full knowledge of their respective leaders.

Israeli officials have stated publicly there are no talks at the ministerial level, and have also denied involvement in the informal meetings between academics. Palestinian officials have until now declined to comment.

Abu Zayyad, who was elected Saturday to the new Palestinian Council as a Jerusalem representative, said the meetings between Palestinian and Israeli ministers were "fruitful" and "help set the stage for the formal talks."

However, he said he does not believe real progress can be made in negotiations on any final-stage issues, including Jerusalem, until after the Israeli elections.

The final-status talks are scheduled to begin in May, under the terms set down in the Oslo accords.



David Boon, a serious cricketer and a serious drinker. He was said to have once consumed 58 cans of beer on a flight from Australia to England. (Reuters)

Boon, in his last test match, once again rescues Australia

ADELAIDE (Reuters) - For a man who once interrupted an innings to have stitches inserted in his face without anesthetic, rescuing Australia again was a relatively tame experience for David Boon, yesterday.

The sturdy and fiercely patriotic number three batsman has steered Australia's top order for 12 years through a combination of raw, unflinching courage and a technique gradually shorn of unnecessary flamboyance.

In his 107th and final test match, the 35-year-old veteran strode to the wicket at Adelaide Oval in familiar circumstances. Australia were in trouble: first wicket down and only one run on the board.

Fittingly - and as so often in the past - Boon answered the call. Thirty-eight overs after taking guard, he departed with 43 valuable runs against him name. Another crisis averted.

Former captain Allan Border, whom Boon served with such selfless loyalty for a decade, lauded his former team mate on Wednesday after hearing of his decision to retire from the international game at the end of the current test.

"He is truly one of the great Australian players... an absolutely champion bloke. A great man to have in the dressing room and a great player to have in the middle," Border said.

"If he fired, we did well, and if he missed out, we struggled -

that's how important he's been to Australia," Border added.

At Sabina Park, Kingston, five years ago, Boon's bravery defied a ferocious West Indies attack, cementing his fearless reputation with a gutsy century.

Shook in the face by a bouncer from Patrick Patterson that ripped open his chin, Boon simply refused to yield to pain or intimidation, blunting the West Indies threat with an inspirational innings of 109.

"He got a hundred against a pretty hostile attack and copped one on the chin but didn't even flinch," Border recalled.

"He just got some butterfly stitches put in without a painkiller and carried on batting." That showed just how tough he was - nothing ever fazed him," Border said.

During another intimidating assault in the home series against West Indies in 1992-93, Boon once returned to the crease at Adelaide Oval with his arm so badly bruised he lost feeling in his hand.

Such feats earned the chunky Tasmanian the respect and deep admiration of the Australian public, who idolized "Boonie" as a true "Aussie battler."

Former team mate and current Victoria captain Dean Jones described Boon, or "Stumpy" as he was known in the dressing room, as "one of the toughest cricketers ever to pull on a baggy green cap."

Going into his farewell test, Boon had scored 7,344 test runs at an average of 43.71, including 21 hundreds. Only Border has scored more test runs for Australia and only three of his compatriots have recorded more test centuries.

Boon entered test cricket in the 1984-85 series against West Indies with Australia's fortunes at a low ebb. Before the end of the rubber, the then captain Kim Hughes had resigned in tears after yet another defeat.

Boon, an opener for much of his test career, provided the necessary resilience at the top of the order as Australia gradually restored their standing in world cricket.

Off the field, the seemingly shy and reserved Boon gleefully played the leading role in team celebrations. With a can of beer in hand, his voice was invariably the first to break into song.

Indeed, his exploits as a drinker came to earn him almost as much esteem among Australia's male population as his ability with the bat. He was said to have once consumed 58 cans of beer on a flight from Australia to England.

Throughout his test career, Boon has done his job with little fanfare or fuss. So much so, Border believes, that his contribution has often been underestimated.

"They are not going to see the true value of David Boon until he's not there," Border declared.

Woman, beaten by husband, dies

VALERIA Rivkin, 59, of Hadera, who was hit in the head with an ax by her husband last week, died yesterday in Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital.

The husband, Mark Rivkin, 60, has confessed and retracted

the crime for police. He will now be charged with murder.

He told investigators that their marriage began to deteriorate while they were still in Russia, and that his wife had recently requested a divorce.

RAMON

(Continued from Page 1) mon said, but was something that had to be done. In fact, he argued, the status quo had changed during the past decades, always to the detriment of the religious community. For example, gone were the regulations that had made Jerusalem, and even Tel Aviv, seem like a "city under siege" on Shabbat.

The only area left to the religious, he said, was the realm of personal status, and that was the most precious thing to them. When he said that this should be left to them, Ramon said, he was not making a political calculation.

Rather, he said, it is the minimum price the secular public had to pay to live together peacefully with the religious. For the overwhelming majority of Israelis, this presented no problem, he noted, adding that the problem cases are very few in relation to

the absolute numbers.

"That isn't my world view," Ramon stressed, however. "I think that people should eat whatever they want, that they should import whatever they want, that they should marry in whatever way they want."

The political reality, he said, was that neither Prime Minister Shimon Peres nor Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu would change the status quo. However, he added, if those who insisted that Peres give in get their way, they would only find that the result would be Netanyahu returning to power, with more religious legislation than ever.

"You have to decide, if for the sake of eating pork you have Bibi as the prime minister, that's too high a price to pay. In the end you'll suffer the worst of all possible worlds. You won't be able to eat pork and Bibi will be the prime minister," Ramon said.

20
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The new Cantona lacks fire

LONDON (AP) - Is this the real Eric Cantona?

The man who helped Manchester United win back-to-back league titles and a rare league and cup double triumph is battling to cut Newcastle's huge standings lead and take his team to a third FA Cup final in a row.

But even the Frenchman's fans are now saying that the "new Cantona" may lack some of the fire and motivation that terrorized opposing defenders.

There are no yellow cards, let alone red ones, these days. The player who was banned for eight months for kicking a fan after his sixth expulsion in English soccer has been a model of good behavior.

In Monday's game at West Ham, Cantona went out of his way to pull protesting teammate Andy Cole away from referee Stephen Lodge just as the co-striker was in danger of being sent off for dissent.

The old Cantona might have joined in the protest and run the risk of another red card. Instead he has become peacemaker instead of troublemaker.

"Eric did a superb job in a heated situation," referee Lodge said. "Cantona was the perfect example to everyone on the field and deserves tremendous praise."

Cantona is getting high marks for his behavior. But, instead of frightening defenders into mistakes with his bullying tactics, he seems to be giving them an easy time.

"Maybe he doesn't go into as many dangerous areas as before. Maybe he's not involved as much," Manchester United director Bobby Charlton said. "After all, he wants to play. He doesn't want to be left sitting at home (suspended) again."

On Saturday, the new Cantona will be at Elm Park where the Reds take on division one Reading for a place in the last 16 of the FA Cup.

Manchester United had a shaky ride in the previous round, being held 2-2 at home by another division one club, Sunderland, before advancing after a replay.

Some more teams from the lower divisions are out to upset the big guns in round four.

Division two Shrewsbury bids to down high flying Liverpool at its 7,500 capacity Gay Meadow stadium while big-spending and well-supported Wolves from division one goes to eight-time titlist Tottenham.

Division One struggler Sheffield United, which ousted Arsenal in round three, now tries to follow that up by beating Aston Villa at home. Crewe, second in division two, has the talent to upset Southampton even at The Dell while another division two team, Oxford United, goes to UEFA Cup quarterfinalist Nottingham Forest.

Defending champion Everton welcomes a team which is climbing away from the lower end of the division one standings, Port Vale.

Four of the 16 fourth round matchups involve Premier League teams only.

Leeds visits Bolton, Middlesbrough hosts Wimbledon, Manchester City goes to Coventry and Chelsea, which eliminated league leader Newcastle in round three, takes a short trip across west London Monday to visit Queens Park Rangers.

مركز من اجل

Seles claws her way to Open final

MELBOURNE (Reuter) - No. 1 seed Monica Seles produced one of the great comebacks of her glittering career to win a place in her fourth Australian Open final as she beat teenager Chanda Rubin in three sets yesterday.

Seles, whose return to tennis after an April 1993 stabbing has revitalized the women's game, faces eighth seed Anke Huber after the German reached her first grand slam final with a see-saw three-set win over South Africa's Amanda Coetzer.

The 22-year-old Seles, hot favorite to win her ninth grand slam title in the absence of the injured Steffi Graf, came back from 5-2 down in the third set to win an epic semifinal 6-7, 6-1, 7-5 against the talented Rubin who was facing her Yugoslav-born compatriot for the first time.

Huber's first-ever match against Coetzer, though without the drama of the Seles encounter, gave the tournament a new twist with the 21-year-old German making it into a grand slam final at the 24th attempt.

"It's a big surprise, I didn't expect it...it's difficult to explain (how I feel)," an overwhelmed Huber told reporters after her 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 victory.

Seles, the joint world No. 1 who has battled niggling injuries throughout the tournament, had to dig deep to level the match in the second set against an inspired Rubin after losing the first on a tie-break.

The young American, who had beaten world No. 3 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in a 3 1/2 hour quarter-final, followed the same do-or-die approach and at 5-2 in the deciding set the center court crowd scented an historic victory.

As so often with champions, Seles - never beaten in Australia in 31 outings, 27 of them at the Australian Open - had other ideas.

Seles held serve and at 5-3 with Rubin poised for an upset, she finally cracked her pounding serve for the first time in the set and then broke again to set up a remarkable victory and bring the crowd to its feet.

Seles, who won the Open for three straight years before her stabbing by a crazed Graf fan, said she felt lucky to have survived to the final.

"I just can't believe it because at 5-2 I was pretty sure it was goodbye," an exhausted Seles



STILL GOT IT - Monica Seles smashes the ball back to compatriot Chanda Rubin en route to her semifinal win yesterday.

said. "I'm just very glad that I'm there because I'm very lucky to be in the final."

Rubin, who won a protracted standing ovation for her victory over Sanchez Vicario, said she tried to dominate Seles by going for her shots.

"I tried to stay aggressive and get in a little bit, and I think I did that pretty well. I gave myself chances but I didn't close it out," Seles said she hurt her left

shoulder lifting weights, forcing her to pull back on her serve.

Injury-plagued since her comeback last August, Seles said the shoulder was so stiff on Wednesday she could hardly lift it in practice, but she said it was much better when warmed up and felt generally 100 percent fit going into the match.

Seles, who has beaten Huber twice since coming back from her 28-month layoff, predicted a hard-hitting final tomorrow.

The German lived dangerously against 16th-seeded Coetzer.

After losing the first set, she changed tactics and slowed down the pace of the match against the diminutive South African who was chasing down everything.

"I tried to hit too many winners...in the second set I played a little bit smarter, some more topspins, some high balls. I changed the rhythm a little bit and that was the important thing," Huber said.

Maccabi Tel Aviv unable to turn over new Leaf

Barcelona wins sixth straight, 84-80

ARTURAS Karnisovas scored 31 points to lead Barcelona to a 84-80 home victory over Maccabi Tel Aviv last night in the European Club Championships final pool.

Maccabi falls to 5-6 with the loss and drops out of a tie for the fourth and last quarter-final spot from Group B, as Cibona Zagreb defeated visiting Real Madrid 64-59 and Pau-Orthez shocked Panathinaikos 69-67 in Greece.

Barcelona, winning its sixth straight game, improved to 8-3 to take sole possession of first place.

Maccabi came back from a 14-point, second-half deficit behind the brilliant play of Brad Leaf, who scored 20 points coming off the bench for starting point guard Oded Katash.

The Israelis even managed to take the lead for a brief moment at 66-65 with eight minutes left in the game before Barcelona quickly built up a six-point advantage again and held on for its eighth straight European home win and 16th victory in its last 17 games on its home court.

In the first half, Maccabi coach Zvika Sherf sent Katash to the bench five minutes into the game after the young guard unwisely tried to go on the attack alone against three defenders instead of

waiting for his teammates to arrive to set up a play.

Down 23-12 with 12 minutes remaining until the break, Leaf appeared to singlehandedly turn Maccabi's fortunes around. He was everywhere on the court, as he grabbed key rebounds, dished out assists, played stellar defense, directed the offense beautifully and scored 14 points in the half.

Despite a dominating advantage on the boards at both ends of the court for Barcelona, Tel Aviv cut the lead to 41-38 with just over two minutes left in the period.

But Barcelona then managed to build up a 50-40 cushion at half after Maccabi made some serious mental errors in those crucial minutes.

The team failed to box out as Barcelona retained possession after two consecutive missed second free throws, and then Sherf was whistled for a technical foul that gave the Spaniards four more shots from the charity stripe. To make matters worse, Radisav Curic threw the ball away after being double teamed.

Maccabi's main nemesis throughout the game was the superb Karnisovas, who surpassed

his 20.6 scoring average with 21 in the first half alone.

The Lithuanian forward managed to score and pull down key rebounds, no matter which Maccabi player guarded him, as he stifled Israeli comeback attempts time and again.

For Maccabi, which lost for the fourth time in the last fifth game, Leaf scored 20 points, Doron Jamchee 17, Tom Chambers 11 and Curic 10.

Karnisovas had 31 for Barcelona, while Dan Godfred had 19 and Javier Fernandez 16.

In Group B, host Buckler Bologna beat Benfica Lisbon 97-91.

In Group A, hosts Antibes beat 86 Ulker Istanbul 86-79, while visiting Benetton Treviso defeated Bayer Leverkusen 77-60.

On Wednesday, Iraklis Salonika beat visiting CSKA Moscow 71-68 and Olympiakos won on the road against Malaga, 77-76 in overtime.

Group B			
	W	L	Pts.
1. Barcelona	8	3	19
2. Panathinaikos	7	4	18
3. Real Madrid	6	5	17
- Cibona Zagreb	6	5	17
- Pau-Orthez	6	5	17
6. Maccabi Tel Aviv	5	6	16
- Buckler Bologna	5	6	16
8. Benfica Lisbon	1	10	12

Knicks get revenge on Riley

MIAMI (AP) - Patrick Ewing scored 37 points and Charlie Ward hit a pair of key 3-pointers Wednesday night to help the New York Knicks beat Pat Riley's struggling Miami Heat, 88-79.

It was the second meeting between Riley and the team he left after last season amid considerable rancor. The Knicks beat Miami in New York on December 19, 89-70, when the Heat were without four starters.

This time the Heat were near to full strength, but New York overcame a six-point deficit in the fourth period. Miami lost for the eighth time in the past 10 games.

Aloizio Mouraing had 25 points and 10 rebounds for Miami but couldn't contain Ewing.

Miami had its biggest lead, 67-61, when Ward started a 9-0 spurt with a 3-pointer - his first points of the game. Ward also made a steal and perfect pass to John Starks for a breakout layup, and Ewing's dunk put New York ahead 70-67 with 7:30 left.

Ewing dunked again and hit two free throws as the Knicks built their lead to 78-70. Ward swished a 3-pointer as the 24-second WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS:

- L.A. Lakers 124, Boston 107
- Houston 98, New Jersey 89
- Cleveland 91, Philadelphia 88
- New York 88, Miami 79
- Charlotte 127, Washington 113
- Phoenix 101, Minnesota 91
- Chicago 104, Vancouver 94
- Indiana 97, Milwaukee 89
- Detroit 85, San Antonio 84
- Seattle 86, Denver 79
- Utah 100, Golden State 89

ond buzzer sounded to make it 81-72 with three minutes to go.

Lakers 124, Celtics 107

Elden Campbell scored a season-high 26 points and Nick Van Exel added 18 as the visiting Lakers won.

The win was the Lakers' fifth in their last six games and gave them a sweep of the two-game series against Boston.

GUESS WHICH?

Which team holds the record for least yards rushing in a Super Bowl?

New England Patriots
Chicago Bears
Dallas Cowboys
San Francisco 49ers

Answer tomorrow.

Answer to yesterday's 'Guess Which' Oklahoma State last beat UMass 69-54 in the Eastern Regional Final of the 1995 NCAA Tournament.

Wrestling mania hits Ramle

ALAN ROBERTS

SIXTY-FIVE champion wrestlers from eight different countries are today and tomorrow night grappling in Ramle for the 12th International Wrestling Tournament in memory of the 11 Israeli athletes killed by terrorists at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich.

A star-studded lineup dominated by Bellorussia's Vladimir Kapitov, 1993-4 world champion and European champion at 74 kilograms and Alexander Siduranko, winner of the bronze at the Barcelona Olympics and 1993 European champion at 82 kg, is on the bill.

Georgia's world youth champion Gela Bizinashvili will also be out on the mat as will Israel's own wrestling champ, 22-year-old Gucca Chichiasvili, runner-up

to the world champion in 1995 and third at the recent European Championships in France.

The Israel Wrestling Association is the only sporting body in Israel that has traditionally honored the memory of the 11 victims of the 1972 Olympic Games in a formal sport event. This year it has managed to do so again in spite of being beset by serious financial woes following break-away and independence from the Sport Federation of Israel.

"The Wrestling Association is proud to be able to stage this high quality and thoroughly professional tournament for the 12th time running", said president Yoram Orstein.

The tournament will be staged under the auspices of Ramle Mayor Yoel Lavi.

Betar Jerusalem meets Hapoel Haifa as league resumes play

DEREK FATTAL

THE short winter break is over as the second half of the soccer season resumes tomorrow with a potential cracker-of-a-match at Kiryat Eliezer, as National League leader Betar Jerusalem seeks to continue its winning drive away to third-placed Hapoel Haifa.

The championship race is tighter than ever. Just four points separate the top four clubs, which are battling for the right to lift the precious title silverware come this campaign's end. A packed house is expected at Kiryat Eliezer, as Betar's enterprising attack will try to undo one of the strongest midfield and defensive units in the league.

Maccabi Tel Aviv, which occupied top spot for most of the season has a far easier prospect in store, at Bloomfield against lowly neighbor Betar Tel Aviv. When the teams met for the first time this season, Maccabi emerged 3-0 winners.

Likewise the formbook suggests other title contender Maccabi Haifa should have little trouble against beleaguered Maccabi Jaffa. Home advantage is likely to prove of little value to Jaffa which lost coach Nissim Bachar earlier in the week after falling in

the State Cup, and also saw import Yevgeny Dimitriev beat a quick retreat out of the country yesterday due to "personal difficulties."

Hapoel Kfar Sava, which dismissed coach Eli Yanni at the beginning of the week following its State Cup defeat by Second Division Ironi Ashdod, will try and put controversy aside as it hosts Hapoel Petah Tikva.

Hapoel Beersheba and Hapoel Tel Aviv meet up in a match-up between the two big sides which ended up with egg on their faces last weekend in the State Cup against opponents from lower divisions.

The draw for the last-16 stage of the State Cup will be broadcast live on Israel Radio today at 11:00 a.m.

This weekend's National League fixtures (kick off at 14:30 tomorrow unless otherwise stated, first round result in parentheses):
Hapoel Haifa v. Betar Jerusalem, (1-2), Kiryat Eliezer 18:00; Maccabi Tel Aviv v. Betar Tel Aviv, (2-0), Bloomfield, 16:00; Maccabi Jaffa v. Maccabi Haifa, (0-3), Gaon Stadium; Maccabi Petah Tikva v. Zefirim Holon, (4-4), Petah Tikva; Ironi Rishon v. Maccabi Herzliya, (0-1), Rishon LeZion; Hapoel Kfar Sava v. Hapoel Petah Tikva, (1-3), Kfar Sava; Hapoel Beersheba v. Hapoel Tel Aviv, (2-3), Beersheba; Bnei Yehuda v. Hapoel Beit She'an, (1-2), Hadera Quarter.

Mexico returns to top 10 in FIFA World Rankings

ZURICH (AP) - Mexico, coming off its second straight Gold Cup title, returned to the top 10 after a two-month absence while Ghana and South Africa both used early African Cup success to make significant jumps in the FIFA World Rankings on Wednesday.

Israel remained unchanged at 42 in the rankings.

Mexico, which beat Brazil's under-23 squad 2-0 in Sunday's CONCACAF title game, moved up to eighth place in the monthly rankings of national teams, up four spots from December.

Nadia Comaneci slated to perform here in fall

HEATHER CHAIT

A PERFECT 10 is coming to Israel. Nadia Comaneci, the Romanian gymnastics sensation from the 1976 Montreal Olympics, will give local audiences a demonstration this October of what it takes to be perfect.

The visit will coincide with the European Gymnastics Union's congress to be held in Tel Aviv from October 7-13 with gymnastic heads from 48 countries participating.

Laying the path for Comaneci's visit was Paul Zirest, American gym coach and Comaneci's soon-to-be husband who will bring his corps of stars, including Brad Corner (past Olympic champion on parallel bars) and world champion Kim Zmeskal to show them off to the European bigwigs.

Traveling tennis players

Israel's Davis Cup tennis team is hard at work abroad practicing for the important tie against Norway next month at Ramat Hasharon. Captain Shlomo Glickstein personally shepherded Eyal Ran and Noam Behr to a \$300,000 tournament in Shanghai while Eyal Erlich took himself off to Zagreb, to play in a \$350,000 competition.

While the national team is safely out of the way until February 3, the Norwegian crew will arrive on January 30 for a training camp at Wingate Institute.

Ice sabras

An Israeli ice-hockey team in the World Championships sounds as absurd as the Jamaican Olympic bobsled team but then, who invented the word "huzzpah?" Tomorrow night at the newly-

LOCAL SCENE

HEATHER CHAIT

opened Olympic rink in Metulla's Canada Center, Israel begins a course in the pre-World Championships tournament (level C) against Greece and Turkey.

To warm up on the ice for this tournament, Israel played two friendlies against a Russian Olympic veterans team. Israel lost both games 8-5, but Metulla local council head Yossi Goldberg was pleased with the effort.

Kolesnik aims straight

A bull's-eye for local archer Yaron Kolesnik who won an international tournament in Manchester, shooting past 108 other contestants.

Kolesnik, still needing to clear the international criterion for the Olympics, was overjoyed with his performance after his six-month break from competition.

Alex Gilady honored

After just one year as Israel's first member of the International Olympic Committee, Alex Gilady is already justifying his position. This week the German sports magazine, Sport Intern, ranked Gilady 27th in its annual list of 100 most influential people in world sport.

Gilady is the first Israeli to feature in the prestigious list.

Yael fights again

Yael Arad's first test in this Olympic year will be tomorrow in the first competition in a series of A-level tournaments in Moscow.

Arad and Einat Yaron (who fights on Sunday) went east after sharpening their skills at a training camp in Austria.

Watch Emmitt, then watch the yards pile up

TEMPE, Arizona (AP) - Leave it to Nate Newton, the Dallas Cowboys' 149-kilogram chatter-box, to define Emmitt Smith's impact on the team.

"Before Emmitt came, I was just a normal fat guy," the left guard said. "Now I'm a fat guy who goes to the Pro Bowl."

Emmitt Smith can do that for people.

It's conceivable that if his 1.7-meter 94-kilogram body stands up for another six to eight years, he could hold every NFL rushing record.

While watching Sunday's Dallas-Pittsburgh Super Bowl, consider this:
● Smith's 25 rushing touchdowns this year were the most in a single season, one more than John Riggins' old mark. His 96 career TDs in just six seasons are fifth behind Walter Payton, Brown, Marcus Allen and Riggins. Next season, he should catch Payton, who has 110.

● His 1,773 rushing yards broke his own Dallas record, set in 1992. He's already 13th on the all-time rushing list with 6,956 yards, more than halfway to Payton's 16,726, set over 13 seasons.
● He's also 115 yards away from breaking Franco Harris' record of 354 rushing yards in Super Bowl games.

● Most important: Since 1993, the first of Dallas' Super Bowl seasons, the Cowboys are 0-4 in games he has missed; 31-5 in games he's played.

Sunday's Super Bowl will be broadcast live, with the pre-game show beginning on Sports Channel 5 at 12:45 a.m. Monday, and on Prime Sports at 1 a.m. Kick-off is scheduled for 1:20 a.m.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Boon sets up Waughs to punish Sri Lanka
David Boon played a familiar rescue role in his last appearance for Australia which set up twins Mark and Steve Waugh for an assault on Sri Lanka in the third and final Test yesterday.

Boon, who will retire from international cricket at the end of this match at the Adelaide Oval, steadied the innings with a typically resolute 43 after Australia lost a wicket in the first over of the game.

Mark Waugh, who hit 71, and brother Steve, with an unbeaten 70, subsequently lifted Australia to 239 for five at the close on the opening day after they won the toss.

Hill tops All-Star votes

Grant Hill of Detroit received the most votes and edged Chicago's Michael Jordan in the closest balloting for the NBA All-Star Game since 1977. Hill received 1,358,004 for a 16,582-vote margin over Jordan (1,341,422) out of more than 6 million votes.

Local rugby fixtures

Tomorrow's rugby matches: (At Sportia) ASA Tel Aviv v Ra'anana - 11:00; Eagles I v ASA Jerusalem - 12:30; Eagles II v ASA Technion Haifa, 14:00. (At Kibbutz Shamir) Hapoel Galil Elyon v Rishon LeZion - 13:00. (At Kibbutz Yizre'el) Hapoel Kibbutz Yizre'el v HMS Ilustrious.

Local softball registration

The Israel Softball Association invites new players and teams for the 1996 season. The registration deadline is February 7. Interested parties can call (8-27)0690 for details.

The ISL is sponsored by The Jerusalem Post.

SCOREBOARD

NFL - Wednesday's results: Buffalo 4, Hartford 2; Pittsburgh 4, Ottawa 3; Philadelphia 4, N.Y. Rangers 4; Chicago 2, Toronto 2; Detroit 4, San Jose 2; St. Louis 4, Winnipeg 3; Calgary 4, N.Y. Islanders 1; Dallas 5, Edmonton 3; Anaheim 2, Vancouver 1 (OT).

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Agreement in pipeline over Rafael dismissals

Histadrut accepts firing of 400

AN agreement in principle was reached yesterday to resolve the ongoing dispute at Rafael, the weapons development authority, under which workers would accept dismissals and pay freezes in return for not turning the concern into a public company.

The agreement was reached in the early hours of yesterday morning, after marathon talks between Histadrut officials, Treasury officials, and representatives of the workers and management.

The accord, however, must still be approved by Prime Minister and Defense Minister Shimon Peres, whose decision is expected Sunday or Monday.

Under the accord, the Histadrut officials and the workers agreed to the dismissal of a total of 400 government employees from the concern and a wage freeze for the next two years.

DAVID RUDGE

The dismissals include the 350 already decided upon by management and the Civil Service Commission which were approved on Sunday by the National Labor Court, which rejected an appeal by the workers and the Histadrut against the firings.

Over 100 of those scheduled for dismissal have already agreed to leave.

Negotiations are continuing over severance terms for them and those who are to be fired.

Yigal Cohen, head of the trade union department of the Histadrut's Haifa office, said that under the proposed agreement state employees would accept a wage freeze. This would mean an effective cut in salary of between 13 percent to 15 percent over the next two years.

He said nearly 3,000 of Ra-

fael's 4,300 workers were government employees and the rest were on special contracts. The savings from the agreed cutbacks in manpower and salaries would be considerable, said Cohen.

"We are very pleased with this agreement because it allows Rafael to continue in its present form and defers the prospect of turning it into a public company for the next two years," said Cohen.

Meanwhile, Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu visited the plant yesterday afternoon and promised workers that he would oppose any attempts to turn Rafael into a public company because of its strategic importance.

"Just as you don't privatize the air force or the Mossad or the General Security Service, you can't privatize Rafael, which is a vital enterprise," said Netanyahu.

Court: IDF must hold hearing before restaurant made off-limits

EVELYN GORDON

THE army had no right to order soldiers to boycott a Kiyat Arba fast food restaurant without giving the owner a hearing, the High Court of Justice said yesterday.

Soldiers were ordered to boycott the restaurant owned by Elizur and Aviva Butavia immediately after the murder of Yitzhak Rabin, due to soldiers' reports that Butavia had rejoiced at the news, blowing the shofar and offering customers free drinks.

The army said soldiers were so upset by this that fights could have broken out had they not been forbidden to do so.

The Butavias deny that this incident ever occurred.

Their restaurant was not even open the night of the murder, they said, and Butavia was interviewed on Israel TV the following day saying he denounced the murder, and would rather give back all the territories than see a situation where Jews are killing Jews.

Furthermore, Butavia said, some of those who testified against him to the army have since retracted their statements, saying they had confused him with someone else.

The army said it investigated these claims when it received

them in writing, but found nothing to contradict the testimony of the two soldiers who continued to stick to their story. It therefore saw no reason to conduct a hearing with Butavia present.

However, Justices Eliezer Goldberg, Mishael Cheshin, and Yitzhak Zamir said minimum decency requires a hearing before damaging a man's livelihood.

Butavia's restaurant catered largely to soldiers, and has suffered significant financial damage in the past three months.

The army therefore agreed to hold a hearing early next week, after which Butavia can petition the court again if he wishes.

Soldier who shot up Jaffa church claims rabbi encouraged him

HANIEL Karen, a soldier who went on a shooting spree in Jaffa's St. Anthony's Church last May, told Tel Aviv District Court yesterday that he had acted under the instructions of a rabbi who had encouraged him to commit the crime, and that he did not regret his actions. He did not name the rabbi.

Immediately following Karen's statements, his lawyer, Ami Weig, asked to be relieved of the case, saying his whole line of defense had collapsed.

Weig said that until recently, Karen had been regretful and seemed ashamed of what he had done. But about six weeks ago, someone gave Karen a book written by the late Rabbi Meir Kahane. After reading it, Weig said, Karen told him that he could not tell the court he regretted his actions.

Judge Natan Amit refused to relieve Weig, however. The shooting in the church caused damage but no injuries. Karen is also charged with trying to set fire to the Gethsemane Church in Jerusalem.

A verdict is expected next Wednesday.

Mendelevitch challenges Hammer for NRP leadership

SARAH HONG

THE National Religious Party's central committee will elect the party leader in two weeks. Incumbent Zevulun Hammer is seen as a shoe-in, despite a challenge by former prisoner of Zion Yosef Mendelevitch.

None of the party's MKs challenged Hammer, although Hanan Porat says he was on the verge of so doing.

Porat desisted at the last minute, he claims, for the sake of party unity.

This would make the present contest one of the more peaceful in recent NRP history.

Hammer's lead over Mendelevitch was displayed yesterday, when Hammer submitted his candidacy along with the nomination signatures of 700 of the central committee's 1,000 members.

Mendelevitch made do with 150 signatures.

Mendelevitch, one of the better known prisoners of Zion in the former Soviet Union, was released and came to Israel 14 years ago.

He is considered to the right of Hammer politically.

The committee's vote will be by secret ballot.

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WEATHER

Forecast: Clear to partly cloudy. Flies in temperatures.
Statbest: Partly cloudy to cloudy. Further rise in temperature.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	
Amman	10	18	cloudy
Bahia	18	24	partly
Buenos Aires	12	18	cloudy
Chicago	28	32	partly
Copenhagen	10	12	cloudy
Frankfurt	10	12	cloudy
Helsinki	10	12	cloudy
Hong Kong	18	24	partly
London	10	12	cloudy
Los Angeles	18	24	partly
Madrid	10	12	cloudy
Moscow	10	12	cloudy
New York	18	24	partly
Paris	10	12	cloudy
Reykjavik	10	12	cloudy
Rome	10	12	cloudy
Tel Aviv	18	24	partly
Tokyo	18	24	partly
Vienna	10	12	cloudy
Zurich	10	12	cloudy

Victim stabs robber, leading to drug pusher's arrest

AN employee at a Nazareth felfel shop in took matters into his own hands after a masked robber armed with a knife stole NIS 100 in cash from him.

The worker raced after the thief and an accomplice, and stabbed the robber several times in the back.

The suspect was moderately in-

DAVID RUDGE

jured, but the accomplice managed to escape.

Later, police set up an ambush outside a house in the city where they thought the accomplice might appear. Instead they arrested another man suspected of dealing in heroin.

Nazareth police station commander Ch.-Supt. Shmuel Mermelstein said that the owner of the house had been frightened by the police presence and had thrown several packets, believed to contain heroin, outside.

He did not spot the detectives waiting outside and went to pick up the six packets.

"MISRADIT ORGANIZES OFFICES" THAT RINGS TRUE IN BEZEK

Rina Nisamson-Bezeq Buyer

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